CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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NGA Hooters Golf Tour returns to Pearl River Resort

The National Golf Association's (NGA) Hooters Professional Golf Tour comes to the Pearl River Resort in Choctaw Sept. 7-13 for the Silver Star Hotel & Casino Golf Classic, presented by Michelob Ultra.

The event, to be held at the Dancing Rabbit Golf Club for the fifth straight year, is presented by Hooters of America and Naturally Fresh Foods.

"We are excited to once again bring the Hooters Tour back to Pearl River Resort," said NGA/Hooters Tour President Robin L. Waters. "The players love all aspects of this tournament from the world class golf facility, the two exciting casinos and the numerous volunteers that make the event a success each year."

The tour brings golfers to Choctaw for one big week of golf. A portion of

............see GOLF, pg. 4

Tribe observes first Nanih Waiya Day

On the eve of Nanih Waiya Day, officials and guests of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians gathered Thursday, Aug. 13 atop the Nanih Waiya Cave site in Winston County, Miss., to observe the first official Choctaw holiday.

An estimated 350 were on hand for the Second Annual Regaining and Embracing Our Mother Mound Nanih Waiya Celebration to commemorate the restoration of the Nanih Waiya mound and cave sites back to the Tribe.

After the first Regaining and Embracing Our Mother Mound event on Nov. 14, 2008, Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson and all 17 members of the Choctaw Tribal Council signed a proclamation making Nanih Waiya Day an official holiday in remembrance of the signing of the official transfer of the deed on Aug. 8, 2008.

The holiday is to be observed annually on the second Friday of August. This year's holiday was Friday, Aug. 14.

During his Aug. 13 remarks at the Nanih Waiya cave site in Winston Co., Miss., Mi̱ko Denson stands next to the proclamation that officially made Nanih Waiya Day a Choctaw holiday.

"The mound is a very significant part of Choctaw life and creation. Many stories have come along that's been passed along over the years that ties us to the Mother Mound here, our existence here in Mississippi and in Choctaw. Of the 31 million acres that Mississippi has, the Choctaws ceded over 23 million of it," said emcee Gilbert Thompson.

..........see HOLIDAY, pg. 6

MBCI welcomes CCG as newest addition to Tribal Enterprises

CHOCTAW CONSTRUCTION GROUP

I N C O R P O R A T E D

CHOCTAW, Miss. - The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians recently enacted an Ordinance to establish its newest venture, Choctaw Construction Group Incorporated (CCG).

The creation of the new business endeavor allows CCG to serve as the parent holding company for construction operations with three subsidiary companies currently in operation: IKBI, Incorporated, Choctaw Electrical, Incorporated (CE) and Choctaw Design and Construction, Incorporated (CD&C).

The incorporation of CCG allows for all of the Tribe's construction business opportunities to channel through this independently-operated corporation and its subsidiaries.

IKBI, Inc. is no stranger to the construction industry. Since its inception in 2004, IKBI, Inc. remains one of the Tribe's most successful construction companies operating within the states of Mississippi and Louisiana.

Some of IKBI, Inc.'s project highlights include the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center, the A-3 Rocket Test Stand at NASA/Stennis Space Center, and most recently the USCG Sector New Orleans Emergency Operations Center in New Orleans, La.

"The success that IKBI Inc. has achieved over the past five years has allowed us to expand our construction business to benefit our clientele not only throughout the state, but within the southeast region," said Charlie Benn, chairman, board of directors, CCG. "We are very proud of IKBI, Inc. as it now serves as the cornerstone of this progress," added Benn.

Introducing a new spark to the Tribally-owned businesses, Choctaw Electrical operates as the first ever tribally-owned electrical company. With

.......see NEW ENTERPRISE, pg. 6

FROM THE OFFICE OF MIKO BEASLEY DENSON

Beasley Denson

THE U.S. ECONOMY

Big Challenges facing the States and our Tribe

I last wrote about the U.S. economy in December. It is extremely important for Tribal members to understand what is happening at the federal and state levels in order to have context for what is happening on the Reservation and in Tribal Government.

In December, President Bush had declared the country officially in a recession and the Federal Reserve warned that the U.S. economy's weakness and a protracted period of poor economic performance would stretch well into 2009.

The Wall Street meltdown decimated many individuals' retirement savings and made it more difficult for all to borrow money. The record number of home foreclosures drained tax revenues and soaring energy prices increased the cost of doing business across the board.

Unemployment started a climb that has reached double digits today. Today, the national unemployment rate is 9.5 percent. Even if the recession begins to ease, economists say jobs will remain scarce for some time to come. Many people have now been without a job so long that their unemployment benefits have run out.

The United States is now in a very tough spot. State governments are slashing their budgets and are doing everything they can to stay above water. At least seven states have instituted higher personal income and sales taxes and have raised motor vehicle registration or court fees.

Michigan, Oregon, Louisiana and Virginia have all recently taken actions to re-structure their governments to cope with the lack of revenues. (We started this process at Choctaw a few months ago to increase efficiency and find savings.)

Many state-provided services to residents are being abolished or privatized in an effort to reduce costs. Nowhere is the situation as serious as in California, where Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has a $24 billion hole in his budget.

The state is closing 220 state parks, eliminating welfare for 500,000 families and cancelling health insurance for almost a million low-income children. California's dire situation has raised the question of what would happen if an entire state goes bankrupt.

New York will be facing deficits of $6 billion next year. It worked around a $17 billion deficit this year by raising income taxes and charging fees for state services.

Connecticut, the richest state in the country, will have an $8.5 billion budget deficit over the next two years. It will need to borrow a billion dollars just to pay its obligations from last year.

The list of states with budget problems goes on and on.

Many casino expansions remain unfinished due to the economic downturn.

To try to stop this economic free fall, the federal government is pumping borrowed money into the economy to try and jump-start it. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was created in an attempt to save jobs, provide more than $150 billion to low-income and vulnerable households and spur increased economic activity.

The $787 billion stimulus is the largest infusion of federal dollars into state treasuries ever. It may be working. Although it is taking a long time for the money to reach its destinations and much of it has yet to be allocated, the index of leading economic indicators has been positive for three months in a row.

Fewer unemployment claims are being filed than in past months and after two years of declining values, home prices are starting to stabilize in some areas.

But even with this good news, no one expects things to return to normal for at least two years.

Obviously, when the economy is down and unemployment is up, casinos will have fewer visitors. We had the foresight to make the necessary adjustments early.

We cut expenses and adjusted capacity at the Resort pro-actively to get out in front of the crisis we saw coming and our plan has been used as an example for other gaming operations trying to make adjustments to survive the recession.

Citing the economic downturn, the Mohegan Sun has shed over 500 jobs. Remaining employees are taking pay cuts of up to 10 percent and cuts to their 401K plans. Non-Tribal gaming operations are taking similar hits.

Harrah's, the largest casino company in the world, has cut over a thousand jobs and cut managers' salaries at all of its facilities. Steve Wynn has instituted a similar cut at his casinos. Donald Trump's resorts cut pay by 22 percent for its upper management in Atlantic City but even that didn't save the company from bankruptcy. Other casinos are instituting mandatory unpaid days off.

Despite our constant efforts to diversify our economy, Tribal government still receives the overwhelming majority of the revenue it uses to provide services to Tribal members from our Resort. Even after making all the right moves to prepare for the downturn, like almost

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Items of interest to the local & Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER 2009 ISSUE IS FRIDAY, SEPT. 4, AT 12 NOON.

every state in the country, we still have to tighten our belt.

That is why we will be unable to grant the annual cost of living increase this year. We are in a situation today where we basically have two choices. We can eliminate more jobs and, this time unlike the last time, the reduction would have to include Tribal members and give those remaining an increase, or we can suspend the increase and keep the jobs.

While it is an uncomfortable topic to discuss, this is not a hard decision to make. We want to keep as many Tribal members employed as possible so that they can provide for their families. The cost of living sacrifice needed to keep those jobs will be shared by all Tribal employees and will hopefully be short lived.

There are signs that that will be the case. The economy has done better than expected recently. Economists are seeing signs that the downturn maybe reaching the bottom of its swing, at which point, there will be nowhere to go but up.

When it comes to the economy, we will continue to do everything in our power to ameliorate the effect it has on our Tribe as a whole and as individuals.

In areas we can't control, like at the national level, we will hope for the best and pray that the efforts of the lawmakers and the financial advisors in Washington DC are successful.

"We have a lot further to go," President Obama said of unemployment figures for the month of July. Governing during a period of prosperity and economic growth, like we had in the 1990s, is easy. It takes true leadership and courage to govern and make tough decisions during a recession.

I wish President Obama, his administration, and the economic policy makers at the Capitol the best of luck and hope his efforts to stimulate the economy are successful.

Beasley Denson

Beasley Denson,
Tribal Mi̱ko

President Obama: "We have a lot further to go."

There are no Choctaw Tribal Council resolution summaries to report in the September issue.

Mayor James A. Young - New Leadership, New Relationships

"New leadership brings new relationships and new possibilities." pronounced Philadelphia's new mayor, James A. Young, at a recent event at Pearl River Resort.

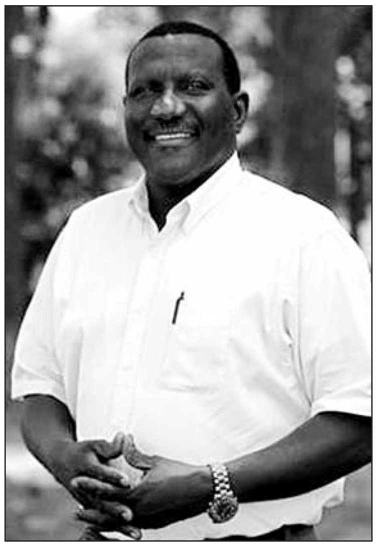
"Our community is Choctaw, black, and white... equally contributing to the prosperity of our shared future and local culture."

"We must work, hand-in-hand, in areas such as healthcare, education, human services, roads and bridges, attracting retail and industry, and lobbying Jackson and Washington, DC for the things that are vital for the growth of our area."

The Mayor continues, "My vision for the area looks to the future. Green industries must be part of the immediate solution to revitalize our local economy. We should quickly consider a Wi-Fi system of internet connectivity for all of Neshoba County, including Philadelphia and Tribal Lands."

"Anything less would be the status quo."

Mayor James Young is no stranger to Choctaw. As the director of Neshoba General's Emergency Medical Services, he trained tribal personnel in the areas of CPR, First Aid, Emergency Medical Technician, and Disaster Preparedness in the late 1970s and 1980s. More recently, Mayor Young served as a Youth Detention Officer at the Justice Complex for more than four years.



Philadelphia Mayor James A. Young

Mayor Young became Philadelphia, Mississippi's first African American mayor on July 3, 2009.

Mayor Young pledges to move Philadelphia forward. "We are going to work hard and we are going to pray hard. We are going to fuss and yes, we may fight, but the job is going to get done in Philadelphia."

Young, 53, was born in rural Neshoba County and moved to Philadelphia as a small child in the early 1960s with his parents and three brothers and three sisters.

As a young man, he was laid off at U.S. Motors in 1975 and after about two weeks his father told him it was time to start looking for a job.

"Back then my parents didn't just let us stay at the house," Young said. "We had to go to work."

He landed a job as a housekeeper at Neshoba County General Hospital where then-hospital administrator Robert Turcotte Sr. saw his potential and sent him to school to become an emergency medical technician.

Turcotte continued to put his confidence in Young, who went on to become the county's first EMT and later an EMT-Paramedic, leading the county ambulance service for nearly two decades.

Under Young's leadership, the ambulance service rose to become one of the top five in the state and the first rural service to provide paramedic care.

Young and his wife, Sheryl, have one daughter, Shanda. He served nearly four terms as a District 5 supervisor and has been a pastor at a Louisville church for the past 18 years.

Young speaks passionately about his love for Philadelphia and pledges to remain active and involved with a special emphasis on economic development, job creation, and constituent services.

NEWS FROM THE Pearl River Resort

Choctaw, MS

PEARL RIVER RESORT WELL POSITIONED

Resort's aggressive efforts in the face of the recession are paying off

Reports from Las Vegas continue to reflect the worst financial downturn in recent history. The losses of casino giants Wynn, MGM and Boyd are staggering.

Wynn's profits showed a 90 percent decline at the end of the second quarter. MGM-Mirage lost $212 million and Boyd reported a 41 percent decline in income during the same time frame.

However, the news is not as bleak for Pearl River Resort. Since October, The amount of money being played in the Resort's gaming machines is down only 10 percent and the over-all profits are down 20 percent.

"Considering the tough economic times, things are much better here than at most casinos," said Resort President and CEO General Paul Harvey. "Because we took decisive action early on, we have weathered the recession much better than other properties, both nationally and internationally."

The good news is that many analysts are predicting economic improvement by year's end.

"By the end of September, we will have reduced our annual expenses by nearly 63 and a half million dollars and paid down more than 21 million dollars of debt," Harvey said.

"We have put ourselves in a very good position and when the economy rebounds we should be able to recover more quickly than other gaming operations."

Resort management is taking on the task of streamlining some additional components of its operation to further reduce expenses.

Other improvements include computer systems upgrades and the surveillance system conversion from analog to digital, both of which increase the enterprise's effectiveness and efficiency to better protect facilities and financial resources.

Mississippi has 29 state-regulated casinos in addition to the Silver Star and Golden Moon. Of those 31 casinos, Pearl River is getting approximately 10 percent of the gaming business and operating with fewer expenses.

"That we are doing this during a recession bodes well for Pearl River Resort when the economy recovers," Harvey added.

GOLF .... continued from page one

the proceeds will go to benefit the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Boys & Girls Club.

The Tribe has created two of the most acclaimed golf courses in the country and the NGA Hooters Tour provides an opportunity for the future stars of the PGA to enjoy the first class courses.

The Azaleas Course - with it's immaculately manicured Mississippi Choice Bermuda tees, Tifway II Bermuda fairways and A4 Bentgrass greens - has received numerous awards and accolades, including spots on *Golf Magazine's* Top 100 You Can Play list, *Golf & Travel's* Top 100 Modern Courses and *Golf Digest's* Top 10 New Upscale Public Golf Courses ranking.

Monday, Sept. 7 kicks off the opening qualifying round.

A Junior Clinic, presented by Piggly Wiggly of Union, will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 4:30 p.m., for all local youth wanting to learn the fundamentals of golf.

The NGA/Hooters Tour is the third largest men's 72-hole professional golf tour in the country, behind the PGA and Nationwide Tours. Alumni include the likes of 2007 Masters Champion Zach Johnson, 2003 PGA Champion Shaun Micheel, 2003 British Open winner Ben Curtis, 2003 US Open winner Jim Furyk, two time U.S. Open winner Lee Janzen, British Open and PGA Champion John Daly, as well as British Open winner Tom Lehman, PGA Champion David Toms, 2003 Tour Championship Winner Chad Campbell, 2004 & 2005 Reno Tahoe Open winner Vaughn Taylor and TPC winner Craig Perks, to name just a few.

All told, the NGA/Hooters Tour's alumni have an incredible 10 "Majors" to their credit. The tour has helped more than 100 professionals acquire their PGA, Senior PGA and Nationwide Tour cards.

For more information, call Dancing Rabbit Golf Club at 601-663-0011. For more information about the NGA/Hooters Tour, visit www.ngahooterstour.com.

QUANTUM LEAP

by James L. Lane, Jr.,
Supervising Attorney, Choctaw Legal Defense

Grab the cigars and pass them around... it's a BOY! While the birth of a child is a very exciting and joyous time, one must not forget that certain legal things done at the hospital can have a long-term and often unintended consequences. Through all the excitement and recuperation, many people often forget to accurately fill-out their child's birth certificate.

Choctaw Legal Defense has provided the service of birth certificate correction to all Tribal Members. The only type of birth certificate correction that Choctaw Legal Defense does not handle are those that are "cosmetic" in nature, meaning that there is no real legal purpose to correct a birth certificate.

Many times, Choctaw Legal Defense will handle matters where one of the parent's name is missing from the birth certificate, or where the names appear (as well as the child's) but are misspelled. Sometimes, the mother accidently puts her married name where her maiden name goes.

Problems arise when a birth certificate is not correct. regarding Tribal Members, the problem relates to blood quantum. When a person's last name does not match up to the mother/father, or if the father's name is left off, then action needs to be taken in order to have a person enrolled or their blood quantum modified. After a few generations, one can hopefully see what a legal mess a case like that can become.

Not only can it become a legal mess, it can become an expensive one. A person who is attempting to correct a birth certificate can sometimes find that the father/grandfather/etc. is no longer alive. When this happens, DNA is generally used to determine paternity. Genetic testing is not cheap. Choctaw Legal Defense does not cover the costs of genetic testing. Filling out the birth certificate correctly at the hospital not only saves time, but also money.

Steve a candidate for Aug. 25 election for Tribal Council, Tucker

Peter Steve has announced his candidacy for the Tucker Community seat of the Choctaw Tribal Council. Tribal elections are scheduled for Tuesday, August 25, 2009.

The following is from Steve's announcement:

"On June 9th, Tucker voters chose me to serve our community on the Tribal Council. But two of the losing candidates, Linda McMillan and Tony Martin, saw a loophole and decided to defy the will of the community.

A 13 year-old wearing one of my T-shirts went into the facility building to use the restroom. So the losing candidates took this honest mistake and used it to defy the will of the community. Obviously, a youth going to use the restroom didn't make any difference in the outcome of the election but rules are rules. Although their decision was purely political, I accept it, go forward and I'm asking for your support again.

I have served others all of my life both on the Reservation and off. I would be honored if Tucker residents would allow me to continue by voting for me in the new election on August 25th.

When I was much younger I went to serve my country as a Marine in Viet Nam. I continued that type of service for another thirty years once I returned home in the National Guard. I went to Iraq and provided base security during Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. I have always stepped up when our country needed me.

Currently, I am serving our Tribe as Acting Director of the Choctaw Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. It is my job to prepare the Reservation for emergencies of all kinds.

In only one year we have made huge progress. The accomplishments of my department are many and almost all of them have been done with little or no cost to the Tribe. We have applied for and received hundreds of thousands of dollars from the federal and state governments and have streamlined procedures to obtain even more funding.

Tornadoes and terrorism are not fun things to think about, but I do every day because I care not only about my family, friends and neighbors, but about all members of my Tribe.

Now I want to serve my home community, Tucker. I have lived here all of my life. I served as President of the Tucker Community Club, graduated from Choctaw Central with Mi̱ko Denson in 1969 and have worked for the BIA and the Choctaw maintenance program. I am not afraid of hard work and will work hard to make Tucker the best community to live in.

If elected, I will work for unity among Tribal members and Tribal Council members and focus my energy on things that best serve all of us.

My priorities will be to expand and improve housing and health care and bring more job opportunities to Tucker. I want to shorten the waiting list for houses, improve youth recreational programs, Veterans services and Elderly nutrition services. It will be hard to do in this economy but no one will put more time and effort into trying than I will.

I love our Tribe and so does my wife, Rita. I attend Holy Rosary Catholic Church almost every Sunday. I inherited my belief in serving our Tribe from my mother, Rosalie. She has inspired me to accomplish the things I have and has taught me what being a Mississippi Choctaw means. I believe in her wisdom and the wisdom of all our Elders.

I care about you, Tucker people, and I hope you will vote for me, Peter Steve, on August 25th. Yakoki!"

NOTICE

TO ALL CHOCTAW HOUSING AUTHORITY TENANTS / HOMEBUYERS:

Effective September 1, 2009, the CHA Service Charge for All Work Orders will increase to $40.00 & the CHA Service Charge for All On-Call Work Orders will increase to $45.00.

CHA Board of Commissioners recently revised the CHA Policy Manual for Tenants / Homebuyers. All tenants / homebuyers have been mailed a copy of the revised policy. If any tenant / homebuyer has not received a copy, please come by CHA to pick up a copy.

Real Estate Office reviews lease policies

Halito! The Real Estate Office recently completed a review of the leasing policies & procedures for Choctaw Reservation lands. Highlights of these policies & procedures are below. Please read the following steps & procedures very carefully. We appreciate your cooperation with this matter.

NEW RESIDENTIAL LEASE

- Residential Leases are available up to 25 years in duration.
- Choctaw Housing Authority paid-out houses require a New Residential Lease. Applicants need to provide an Original Deed, Quit Claim Deed or Bill of Sale for the house in order to have it recorded in the Real Estate Office before a new lease can be approved.
- Residential lease rates are $7.00 per year & must be paid in advance.
- Note: You can prepay in increments of five years ($35.00) or 25 years ($175.00) if that is more convenient.

RENEWAL OF RESIDENTIAL LEASE

- If your lease has expired & you wish to continue to occupy the same property, you need to complete a Lease Renewal Application.
- Note: If you occupy land without a valid lease, you are subjected to Trespass Fines (see below).

TRAILER SITE LEASE:

- Trailer site leases are available up to two years in duration.
- Lease rates are $7.00 per year & must be paid in advance.
- Note: There are a very limited number of suitable trailer sites. Please contact Harlon Bell to review potential sites. This process may involve review of soil conditions, timber, environmental, & access to utilities which may take an extended amount of time to obtain approval.

AGRICULTURAL AND/OR GARDEN SITE LEASE

- Agricultural leases are available up to 1 year in duration.
- Lease rates are 50 cents per acre annually.
- Note: The Tribe has a shortage of agricultural land. Land that is leased under an Agricultural Lease must be used for agricultural purposes during the 12 month lease period. Individuals that do not use the land for agriculture may not be allowed to renew their Agricultural Lease the following year.

BUSINESS LEASE

- Business Leases are available up to __ years in duration.
- Business Leases to individual tribal members are $25.00 per year.
- All other Business Leases are $150.00 per year.

..........see LEASES, pg. 12

HOLIDAY

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Thompson, of the Tribe's Economic Development Office, also read part of the proclamation to the audience.

"Let it be known that this day is Nanih Waiya Day, a Choctaw holiday. Today shall be a day of celebrating & rejoicing in remembrance of August 8, 2008, when Nanih Waiya was returned to the Choctaw people. From this day forward, we shall celebrate the anniversary of that glorious day every year on the second Friday of August. Nanih Waiya is the cultural & religious center of the tribe & is the birthplace of the Choctaw people. Nanih Waiya, our mother mound, was taken from the Choctaw people long ago, but it has now been restored to her children. Let it be proclaimed to all people that this land shall never be sold, traded or negotiated with ever again. This land has remained in the hearts of the Choctaw people & from this day forward shall never leave their hands again. Nanih Waiya will forever be for the benefit of the members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians."

Tribal Ambassador and 2009-10 Choctaw Indian Princess Famie Willis also offer her perspective of the holiday.

"Working at the Choctaw Museum, I learned about where we came from. I do thank God for giving us a remembrance of where we came from as being Choctaws. This is something that is very important to our people and this is a very historical event," said Willis.

Speaking entirely in the Choctaw language, Mi̲ko Denson told the audience "we are all Choctaw" and that we should remember Nanih Waiya for our ancestors, our elders and our future generations.

Members of the Elderly Center Traditional Dancers perform the Walk Dance as drummer Frank Williamson leads the way.

Denson stated that he, along with the Tribal Council, rescinded Columbus Day as a holiday to give the Choctaw people an appropriate time to celebrate the return of lands considered sacred.

..........continued next page

CHOCTAW TRIBAL LANGUAGE COMMUNITY CLASS

The Choctaw Tribal Language Program will begin its Fall session of the Language Community Class, starting Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009, at the Red Water Facility Building. Instructors will be Curtis Willis, Jr. & Nellie Billy.

The class will be conducted in Choctaw & English (as necessary) to accommodate non-speakers. Class will meet weekly every Tuesday evenings, 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m., thru Nov. 24, 2009. Certificates will be awarded to participants based on the number of hours attended.

The purpose of the class is to help maintain our Choctaw Language, to increase the use of the language & to teach people how to read & write the Choctaw language.

Topics to be covered will be:

* *three orthographies*
* *alphabet sounds*
* *difference in vowel sounds*
* *writing short sentences*
* *numbers*
* *days of the week (Choctaw)*
* *twelve months (Choctaw)*
* *Choctaw Wedding*
* *Kinship terms*

Depending on size of class, students 15 years of age & over may attend with parents, if they are willing to do the work in learning the language. Please make arrangements for babysitters because we are not able to provide babysitting service.

For more information, call the Choctaw Tribal Language Program Office at 601-650-7440 or email questions to Roseanna.Thompson@choctaw.org.

Chahta Anno̲pa oklah kil okchali̲chi!

NEW ENTERPRISE

continued from page one

lead personnel having 26 years of experience in the electrical field, CE specializes in all types of residential, commercial and industrial projects.

A few of its project highlights include working with the U.S. Coast Guard and most recently, the Choctaw TechParc, to install lighting that is energy efficient and eco-friendly.

"IKBI's continued growth gave us the opportunity to increase our market area and establish the new companies to conveniently serve our clients and reach out to new customers on a broader spectrum," said Jeff Graham, president and CEO, CCG.

Choctaw Design & Construction provides design-build, civil construction and general construction services throughout the eastern half of the U.S.

With the current success of IKBI, Inc. operating in Mississippi and Louisiana, CD&C will assist by expanding to the job market allowing IKBI, Inc. to focus on their clients in and around the state while CD&C focuses on all other business throughout the eastern portion of the U.S.

Choctaw Construction Group Incorporated (CCG) is a tribally-chartered corporation of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians d/b/a Chahta Enterprise.

CCG serves as the parent holding company for IKBI, Incorporated, Choctaw Electrical, Incorporated and Choctaw Design & Construction, Incorporated which provides quality construction services to governmental clients and prime contractors.

IKBI INCORPORATED CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

CHOCTAW ELECTRICAL INCORPORATED

choctaw design and construction INCORPORATED

Established in 2009, CCG is located at 300 Choctaw Town Center, Suite 305 in Choctaw, Miss.

For more information about CCG, please visit www.choctawconstructiongroup.com or contact kgrisham@choctawconstructiongroup.com.

Denson also said a drama production of the Nanih Waiya legend is in the planning stages with hopes of being produced and performed during the 61st Annual Choctaw Indian Fair next July.

Earlier in the program, Choctaw Tribal Language Program staff members DeLaura Saunders, Priscilla Williams and Curtis Willis Jr. recited the Pledge of Allegiance in Choctaw. Pastor Thomas Ben Jr. offered the opening and closing prayers.

Entertainment was provided by the Elderly Center Traditional Dancers as they performed the House Dance, Stealing Partners Dance and Walk Dance.

A luncheon was provided afterwards.

Nanih Waiya, which means "leaning hill" in Choctaw, was ceded to the United States, along with 11 million acres of Mississippi territory when The Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek was signed Sept. 27, 1830.

Designated a state park, Nanih Waiya was one of several parks that required substantial subsidies for maintenance from the state general fund.

In 2004, the Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks was directed to promptly dispose of several parks through closure, lease, sale, or transfer. Nanih Waiya was on that list.

Senate Bill 2732, authorizing the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks to convey the 150-acre park back to the Tribe, was passed & signed into law by Gov. Haley Barbour in 2007.

Nanih Waiya has been cherished by the Choctaws for centuries as their "Mother Mound," the place which is the center of all origin stories.

In one story, it is the place through which the Choctaw emerged onto the surface of the earth; in another it was the ending place of the migration into what would become central Mississippi. It has always been the figurative heart of the Choctaw homeland.

Believed to have been built between 100 B.C. & 400 A.D., the mound is 25 feet high, 218 feet long & 140 feet wide.

It also has major historical significance to all people of Mississippi & Choctaws around the country since it is probably the best documented mound site in the southern U.S., if not the entire country, with published descriptions of it going back to at least 1775, according to tribal officials.

Anderson rallies staff for new school year

Employees of the Choctaw Tribal School System were in attendance for a professional development convocation at the new Red Water Elementary School in Carthage on Tuesday, Aug. 4. With the new 2009-10 school year upcoming, employees attended several sessions & listened to remarks by Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson, Tribal Education Services Officer Dalton Henry, Tribal Council Education Committee Chairman Roger Anderson, among others. Pictured above is keynote speaker Dave Anderson (Choctaw/Ojibwe), founder of Famous Dave's of America. Voted "Hottest Restaurant Concept in America", he has over 170 restaurants across the nation & growing. Anderson shared his heartfelt optimism using his life's story to share valuable insight & life lessons in dealing with today's fast changing & challenging world. Anderson devotes his life to making a difference in his community & in the lives of others less fortunate. He served as Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Dept. of Interior for Indian Affairs from 2004-05.

CELEBRATION OF A NEW BEGINNING

Saturday, September 26, 2009

The University of Southern Mississippi is pleased to announce a new Center for American Indian Research and Studies and our intention to develop a Minor in American Indian Studies.

Please come join us for this special announcement.

1 p.m. – Official announcement of the Center by Provost Robert Lyman and Tribal Dignitaries, followed by a blessing of the Medicine Wheel Garden. Social Dancing, Stickball demonstrations and a pot-luck supper of traditional native foods will follow.

Location:
Medicine
Wheel
Garden
behind
International
Building

For further
information,
contact:
Tammy Greer
(*tammy.greer@
usm.edu*,
601-266-6336)

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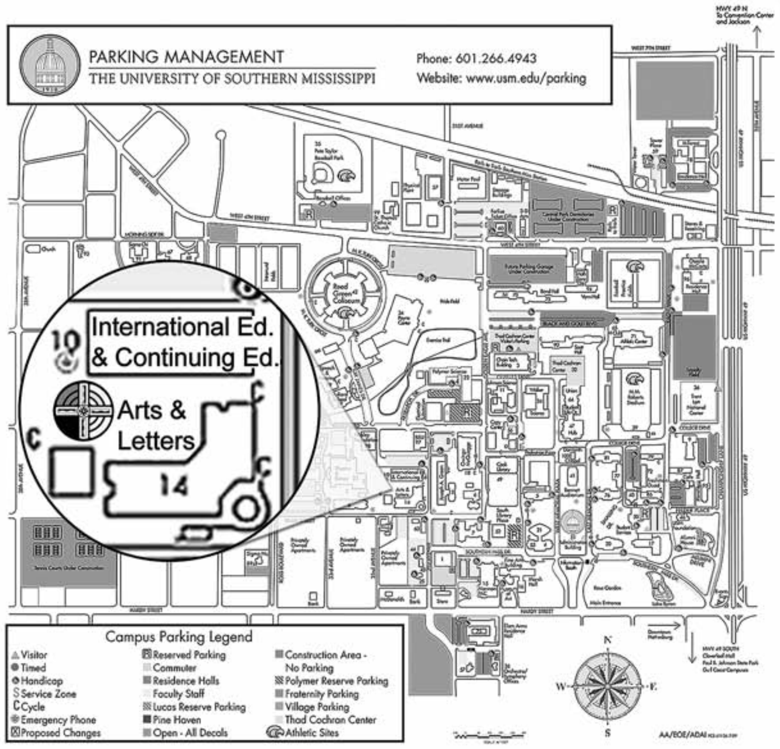
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Warriors gear up for successful 2009 football season

RIGHT, *members of the 2009 CCHS Warriors football team.*

The Choctaw Central High School Warriors are ready to turn the football program around this season as they have their sights set on having a winning season and a possible berth in the playoffs.

In his head coaching debut last season, Paul Killen led the Warriors to a 1-9 season and winless in the division. Despite the record, Killen sees this year's Warriors to be led by experienced players ready to take the helm towards more victories.

"We got a good group coming back, about seven seniors, led by returning quarterback Christopher Willis, returning wide receiver/defensive back Jack Logan and returning middle linebacker Monte Farve who led the team in tackles last year," said Killen.

The Warriors are planning to institute the spread offense with quarterback Willis calling signals from the shotgun formation, which should be beneficial to the offense.

"Chris (Willis) last year, we had him under center a lot and about the time he dropped back to throw he was getting hit, he was running for his life. This spring, we moved him to shotgun and he felt a lot more comfortable right there. And the three days we had him at practice he threw the ball real well," said Killen.

Last season, Willis had over 800 yards passing, 15 touchdowns and 400 yards rushing.

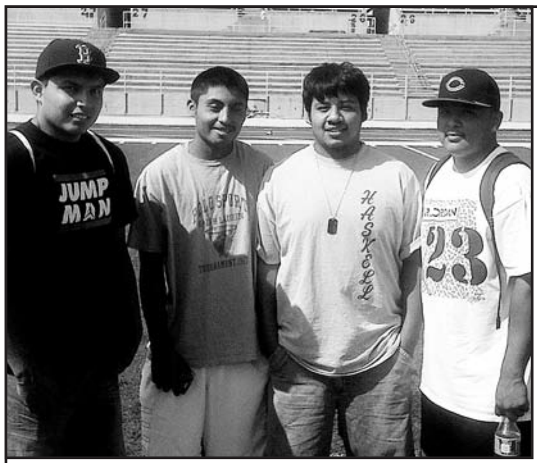
On defense, the Warriors are looking to the linebackers to set the tone on defense.

"Defensively, I think our strength will be our linebackers. We got Monte Farve back at middle linebacker. Last year, he led the team with 75 tackles and he's going to go from sideline to sideline, anywhere he can get on you he is," Killen said.

Last season, the Warriors faced issues with their stamina as they played hard for three quarters but often faltering to fatigue in the fourth.

"We're trying to keep as many people fresh during the game. We're trying to limit the people going two ways. So this year we're going to try, it might be four or five going both ways starting, but we're going to try and give them some rest. That way we stay fresh in the fourth quarter because if you watch the games last year, up until the middle of the third quarter, we were in it then we got a little tired and gave way. So we're going to work harder, have more discipline and put

..........continued next page



(LEFT) *Representing the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians at the Native All Star Football Game were, from left, Rockky Isom, Dudley Williams, Cliff "Bubba" Willis, and Redhmond Dixon.* **(RIGHT)** *Members of the Red and White Teams pose for pictures after the game. The White Team won 7-0.*

Four Warriors participate in All Star Football Game

The 2009 Native All Star Football Game was held on the campus of Washington State University in Pullman on July 25. Four Mississippi Choctaws were selected to represent the Tribe at this year's game.

Rockky Isom, Dudley Williams, Cliff "Bubba" Willis, & Redhmond Dixon, all recent graduates of Choctaw Central High School & members of the Warriors' football team, played in this year's game. Bubba Willis played for the Red squad while the other three played for the White squad. The White Team came away with a 7-0 victory.

"I had a great time chaperoning & coaching in this year's all star game. I think I speak for the guys when I say they had a truly wonderful experience that will definitely last a lifetime," said CCHS assistant football coach Jerod "Taco" Thompson. "I'd also like to extend a thank you to NAS Director John Harjo & all the Red & White team coaches who made this experience all the worthwhile."

The participants thank everyone who made this trip possible - Division of Schools staff, Tribal Education Services Officer Dalton Henry, CCHS Principal Dr. Greg Carlyle, CCHS Athletic Director Walter Wilson, CCHS football coaches Paul Killen & Troy Savell, & anyone else who was involved with making this trip possible.

For more information about the Native All Star Football Game, go to the website www.nativeallstar.com.

forth more effort in the game every week," said Killen.

Due to a realignment of the division, Choctaw Central will see some rivals off their schedule while they welcome new foes.

In the season opener on Aug. 21, the Warriors travel to Noxapater. They next travel to Union for a Aug. 28 matchup.

The Warriors begin a three game homestand as they face former division rival Newton County on Sept. 4.

On Sept. 11, its the annual Battle of the Nations showdown as Cherokee (NC) comes to Choctaw. The game features the only Native American high school football programs east of the Mississippi River.

Morton, another division rival, comes to Warrior Stadium for a Thursday contest on Sept. 17.

On Sept. 25, the Warriors renew a 2A rivalry as they travel to 2A power Ackerman to face the Indians.

Division play starts on Oct. 2 as the Warriors travel to Heidelberg. On Oct. 9, Choctaw Central hosts homecoming as they face Kemper County. They then host Southeast Lauderdale on Oct. 16.

Choctaw Central then travels to Clarkdale on Oct. 23 before coming home to close out the regular season against Philadelphia on Oct. 30.

CCMS cheerleaders announced

Choctaw Central Middle School congratulates the young ladies that were chosen cheerleaders for the 2009-10 school year. Eighth graders are Alise Meely, Breanna Isom, Shaneisha Willis, Shameka Farmer, Isabella Willis & Brandi Charlie. Seventh graders are Langley King, Klairnell Bell, Darisa Tubby, Martina Tubby, Cheyenne Buffalomeat, Renaysia Polk & Daysairana Lewis. Sponsor is Renate Ben.

Attends baseball camp at FSU

WARRIOR
BASEBALL
Seminoles
11

Several members of the Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) baseball team attended the Mike Martin Baseball School during the week of July 26-31 at the Florida State University campus in Tallahassee. CCHS baseball coaches Jerod "Taco" Thompson and Lucius Todd York would like to commend the young baseball boys for their hard work & dedication in attending the camp. They had a wonderful time there and took in some good baseball knowledge so they are expecting better things to come from the baseball program. Pictured above, from left, are Jamison Gibson, Tobiah Ben, Keyshawn York, Micah Mingo, Shunray Polk, FSU camp director Chip Baker, Tyler Lewis, FSU baseball head coach Mike Martin, Brian Farmer Jr, Richie Kaiser Cotton, Demarquis Wilson, Kameron Thomas, & Malcolm York.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS NEWS & NOTES

CONEHATTA UNIT

School session begins August 17, 2009! Come by and fill out an membership application.

Teen Center

The teen center was open during the summer session for members who were working with the Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) summer youth workers. During their lunch break and during their afternoon break, YOP workers were welcomed to the club to relax, watch a movie, play pool, use the computer, or just hang out.

A "Welcome Back Pool Party" was held on Aug. 21 for members (ages 13-18) at the Conehatta Swimming Pool. The pool party was also for teens who want to participate in our teen night program but are unable to come to the club during the week.

A second pool party was held on Aug. 28 for members (ages 13-18) at the Conehatta Swimming Pool. This pool party was for old and new members to hang out with their peers and have fun.

HYLAC

In the Learning Center this summer, we had members reading books and playing educational games. Members enjoyed having books read to them, reading & looking through the *Sports Illustrated* magazines. We also started a family tree project and a club news project.

Twenty members who had maintained "honor roll" status for at least two 9 week periods in the 2008-09 school year received a 2009-10 Boys & Girls Club personal agenda/schedule book.

The agenda book included a class schedule section, daily assignment section, grade keeper for each subject, a periodic table, weight conversions, math formulas, studying tips, & other scholastically helpful facts to assist them in the next school term.

Torch, Keystone & Fan Clubs, Jr. Staff

Members of the Torch, Keystone & Fan Clubs & the Jr. Staff were very busy this summer. Some of the activities they did or participated in included the following:

*Ten members of the Jr. Staff program visited the campus of Meridian Community College on June 5.

*All members ages 8-11 years old attended the Annual Youth Leadership Conference, held by the Choctaw Community Planning Coalition.

Sparks, Fitness, Recreation

The recreation program held a basketball tournament for members ages 8-11 and YOP community aide workers at the facility building.

...see ACTIVITIES, pg. 10

ACTIVITIES

continued from page nine

We had a total of four teams participating in the tournament. They included teams such as:

HWY 489 - Nathaniel, Lightning, Tiara, Hannah, & Kaley;

BGC's Finest - Gordon, Keenan, Marina, Harlan, Sharisha, & Alex;

23ers - Sky, William, Jenina, Anthony, Jesus, & Laraya; and

Pros - Thea, Carlos, Trent, Ethan, & Leah.

BGC's finest won the tourney! Congratulations!

Art/Creative Expression

We had 10 members (ages 5-7), 16 members (ages 8-10) & 10 members (ages 11-18) that made & entered their creations in the Choctaw Indian Fair's Arts & Crafts competition in the youth division.

All members either placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in the competition. To all the members from all the staff, "Great Job!" We are very proud of you.

The members will be able to pick up items when school session begins.

Prevention

The prevention program had a very active summer. To reinforce the prevention program, such as "Kids in Control" & "Smart Moves", we had presentations by the Choctaw Police Department, Newton County Sheriff's Department & the Choctaw Fire Department.

From all the members & staff, we say "thank you" to the following people:

Officers Steve, Shoemake & York of the Choctaw Police Department;

Officers Chinn, Philman & K-9 "Buddy" of the Newton County Sheriff's Department;

Annette Lewis of the Choctaw Children's Advocacy Center;

Allen Meely & Beasley Willis, Sr. of the Choctaw Fire Department;

Jeremiah Harrison & Bronson Jim, Sr. of the Choctaw Detention Center;

Keith Gibson of the Youth Opportunity Program.

Smart Girls & Passport to Manhood participants visit the Choctaw Youth Detention Center.

Club members pose with Officers Chinn & Philman of the Newton County Sheriff's Department.

"Kids in Control" - Annette Lewis of the Choctaw Children's Advocacy Center speaks to the members.

Smart Girls & Passport to Manhood participants enjoy fishing at Lake Pushmataha.

"Smart Moves" - Newton County Officers Chinn, Philman & "Buddy" talk to the members.

As a community service project, members wash the Newton County Sheriff's Department car.

As a community service project, members wash the Choctaw Police Department car.

"Kids In Control" - Allen Meely of the Choctaw Fire Department show members a firefighter's gear.

NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE & STICKBALL STICKS SALE, SKILLS COMPETITION

Saturday, October 10, 2009
Dogwoods Subdivision
Pearl River Community

Registration for skills competition, 9:00 a.m.
Competition begins 10:00 a.m.

For more information,
contact Barry Ben at 601-416-4621

Choctaw Children's Advocacy Center
A SAFE PLACE FOR CHOCTAW CHILDREN

Pre-Holiday Season Fun

The holidays are right around the corner and school is back in full swing. What can you do for fun that is safe and interesting for you and your children during the month of September?

Labor Day (Sept. 7) offers a long weekend to take a short trip with your family or spend time hanging out together closer to home. Plan a cookout or go somewhere special with your loved ones that you may not typically have time to go.

Help your children honor their grandparents on National Grandparent's Day (Sept. 13) this year by taking the time to create handmade cards and visiting their grandparents. Share the stories of your family's history.

Acknowledge American Indian Day (Sept. 25) with your children by celebrating the rich culture of your community.

Also, don't forget that the first day of Autumn is September 22. Take time with your children to enjoy the changes of the season and enjoy the outdoors.

Just because it's not quite time for the "holiday season" doesn't mean you have to wait to celebrate your own family!

From the Office of Family Violence & Victims Services

It is time to go back to school and any time your daily routine is changed you feel stressed. Here are a few tips to help you through this period.

1. Be patient.

2. Exercise. It helps to relieve tension.

3. Find a hobby, such as: listening to your favorite music in a relaxed quiet place; cooking relaxes some women; some form of art, crafts; anything that will relax your mind for a time.

4. Practice a relaxation technique. Relax your arms and shoulders. Close your eyes and take a deep breath and then exhale.

5. Put aside stressful thoughts.

6. Be careful when it comes to alcohol and drugs.

7. Take time everyday to do something that you love to do.

8. Get a massage.

9. Learn some massage techniques that you can do on your own time.

10. Take time to meditate.

For sources to help with stress that does not seem to go away:

-A mental health center;

-Seek a counselor;

-Go to your church and pray;

-Find a place at home to pray;

-Try to maintain a positive attitude;

-Eat a variety of foods that are rich in vitamins, minerals & fiber.

Limit alcohol intake when you are stressed. It will only add to the stress. Too much alcohol will also cause other health problems for some people.

National Day of Remembrance For Murder Victims September 25, 2009

Family Violence & Victims Services
Will be hosting a luncheon for those who have
lost loved ones due to homicide on
September 25, 2009.

For more information, please call FVVS at
601-650-1774.

Tribal members work with Delta Catering

Choctaw Tribal members, from left, Auburn Jefferson, Beverly Willis & Patsy Martin are all crew members of Delta Catering on the sea drill rig (WEST SIRIUS) located 200 miles in the Gulf of Mexico. According to an official, "These individuals are very hard working, are well liked & respected on the rig for their performance." The official also stated they have enjoyed working with tribal members for over four years now in the gulf with Delta Catering. *(Photo courtesy of JP Province)*

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NANIH WAIYA
INDIAN
Mennonite Church

Church to commemorate anniversary of bombing

The members of Nanih Waiya Indian Mennonite Church will commemorate the 45th anniversary of the bombing of their church on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009. Rev. Glen Myers will be at the church to share his experiences about the bombing and the aftermath. The bombing, which occurred on Sept. 19, 1964, almost totally destroyed the church. Members were able to save some chairs & a few other things. Church members & volunteers from Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, Ohio, Virginia, & Pennsylvania rebuilt the church in 21 days. The church was bombed two more times in 1966. Church member Bobbie Frazier said, "We are grateful that the church is still there for some of us to worship. We are thankful to God that no one got hurt. All people are welcome to stop & visit, worship with us anytime. We have a small group that meets on Sundays & Wednesdays with a forgiving heart that people will live together in peace."

LEASES .... continued from page five

LEASE RATE SUMMARY

- Payment for all leases, regardless of the term, shall be payable yearly at the following rates (unless pre-paid in advance):

Agricultural, $0.50 per acre;

House or Trailer Site, $7.00 per acre;

Individual Business, $25.00 per year; &

Other Business, $150.00 per year.

TRESPASS

- Any member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians who occupies land without a valid lease is subject to a Trespass fine.
- Note: A lease will not be approved for an individual who owes a trespass fine until full payment has been made to the Real Estate Program.
- The fine amounts are as follows:

$50.00 per house site;

$100.00 per agricultural site; &

$50.00 per business site.

OTHER POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

- Anyone seeking to lease tribal lands should apply in-person at the Real Estate Office, located at 375 Industrial Road, Building A, in the Choctaw TechParc.
- Applicants will be required to provide a Tribal Enrollment Card or Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) card. We will make a copy & place it in the file. Note: This is a BIA requirement under 25 CFR §162.600.
- Occupants of a Choctaw Housing Authority (CHA) house are NOT required to have a Residential Lease with the Real Estate Office until the house is paid-out.
- A lease will become voidable if any illegal activity, as defined in the Tribal Code or applicable federal law, is proven to have occurred on the premises.
- No lease will be issued to a non-tribal member.
- Furthermore, in order for a non-member to reside on the Choctaw Reservation, they must obtain a valid permit from the Secretary-Treasurer of the Tribe. For more information, refer to Title XIX - Non-Tribal Residing in Choctaw Indian Country.

For more information, contact: Karen Ben, Real Estate Manager, at 601-663-7585 or karen.ben@choctaw.org; or Harlon Bell, Leasing Coordinator, at 601-650-7315 or hdbell@choctaw.org.

In Memory

Laura Ann Thomas

Funeral services for Laura Ann Thomas, 44, were held Friday, July 24, 2009, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. The Rev. Ethan Goode and the Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Thomas passed away July 20 in her home.

She was a homemaker and enjoyed being around children, family and friends. She was also a caregiver and was employed as a hotel housekeeping attendant at the Pearl River Resort.

She was preceded in death by an infant brother and infant sister.

Survivors include her husband, Bobby Thomas, Sr.; daughters, Andrea Thomas & Angelena Thomas; sons, Bobby Thomas, Jr. & Brian Christopher Thomas; parents, Argie & Margaret Wallace; brothers, Archie Lee Wallace, Mark Wallace, Anthony Ray Wallace, & Andrew Wallace, all of Philadelphia; four grandchildren; an aunt, three uncles, a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

Cleveland L. Anderson

Funeral services for Cleveland L. Anderson, 72, were held Thursday, August 6, 2009, from the Macedonia Baptist Church in Conehatta. The Rev. George Dixon officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Thomas passed away Aug. 2 in the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was Baptist by faith. He was a U.S. Army & Marine Corps veteran. He was a mechanic & truck driver.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lonnie & Mollie Thomas Anderson; & two nephews, Heywood Isaac & Benson Williams.

Survivors include daughters, Sylvia Graves of Lena & Sarrita Greer of Philadelphia; sisters, Flora Chickaway, Carol Isaac, Laryssa Gonzalez, & Rochelle Anderson, all of Conehatta; four aunts, Dora Nickey of Conehatta, Mary Ben, Gladys Willis, & Vera Isaac, all of Choctaw; five grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

Evaline Gibson

Funeral services for Evaline Gibson, 47, were held Saturday, August 8, 2009, from the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Carthage. The Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.

Burial was in the Old Mt. Zion Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Gibson, of Carthage, passed away Aug. 5 at the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was Baptist by faith.

She spent her time visiting family & friends, listening to music & watching the Lifetime Movie Network. She loved to be with her grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Steve & Sissie Gibson; a son, Daniel W. Gibson; a brother, Daniel Gibson; a sister, Lou Jane Lewis; & a niece, Zion Dixon.

She is survived by a daughter, Crystal Gibson; a son, Zachary Gibson, both of Carthage; a youth she helped raise, Ronnie Reed Jr. of Carthage; six sisters, Sarah Dixon, Monica G. Sockey, Etta John, all of Carthage, Rebecca Wilson, Maria Wilson, & Sandra Wesley, all of Choctaw; a brother, Jerry Wilson of Carthage; six grandchildren; an aunt, uncle & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

Alma Mitch Frazier

Funeral services for Alma Mitch Frazier, 70, were held Tuesday, August 11, 2009, from John Memorial Methodist Church in Carthage. The Rev. Robert Paul Tubby officiated.

Burial was in the Hopewell Cemetery in Walnut Grove. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements..

Mrs. Frazier passed away Aug. 7 in the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was Methodist by faith.

She worked for Blue Cross, Blue Shield for 25 years as a Data Entry Clerk. She enjoyed listening to gospel music & spending time with family & friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Devin & Frances Willis Mitch; brothers, Edison Tubby & Rufus Ben; sisters, Irene Tubby Mitch, Ina Tubby Mitch & Leona Tubby Mitch; a son, Leonard Kopaddy, Sr.; a grandson, Antonio Anderson; & great-grandchildren Kiwon Anderson & Camillia Kopaddy.

Survivors include daughters, Abbie Lewis of Carthage & Patricia Kopaddy of Philadelphia; sons, Vernon Frazier, Odell Frazier Jr., Bryant Thomas, & Al Frazier, all of Carthage; 27 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

Infant Jaysaun Elliott Steve

Funeral services for Jaysaun Elliott Steve, four week old infant, were held Wednesday, August 12, 2009, from the Conehatta Facility Building. Pastor Thomas Ben, Jr. officiated.

Burial was in the Holy Rosary Catholic Church Cemetery in the Tucker Community. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Infant Steve passed away Aug. 8 in Laird Hospital in Union.

He was preceded in death by maternal grandparents, Roy James Steve & Emma Rue Jefferson Steve.

Survivors include his parents, Lillie Steve of Conehatta & Rian Willis of Choctaw; sister, Shanna Willis of Choctaw; brothers, Malcom Willis of Choctaw, Quintin Willis of Louisville & Alexander Shoemake of Collinsville; paternal grandparents, Maurice McMillan of Philadelphia & Inez Willis

see OBITUARIES, pg. 14

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

Thank you to all for the many prayers, kind thoughts, words of comfort, food donations & preparation, & monetary assistance during our period of sorrow at the passing of our beloved family member, Raymond Taylor, who went to be with the Lord on July 8, 2009. Special thanks to Mi̱ko Denson's Tribal Administration, New Choctaw Baptist Association, Hopewell Church members, Standing Pine Facility Building workers, Assistance Services with the Dept. of Family & Community Services, Choctaw Dept. of Public Service-Law Enforcement, John E. Stephens Funeral Home, Pastor Carl Wilson for officiating the service, Gail Wilson, Elter Wilson for the special songs, Elijah Ben & Day Springs (Janis Jimmie & Marilyn Tubby) for the wonderful music, pallbearers, Sheena Edwards for the flowers, Standing Pine Tribal Council representatives Harrison Ben & Kevin Edwards, Shelly Peoples, & many tribal community members, friends & families who gave of their time to be with us. God Bless.

- The Family of Raymond Taylor

The Twenty-Third Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil: my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

OBITUARIES continued from page thirteen

of Choctaw; two special aunts, Vera Jefferson of Conehatta & Christine Phillips of Philadelphia; & a host of relatives.

INFANT DAYLON
GRANT SAM

Graveside services for infant Daylon Grant Sam, stillborn, were held Thursday, August 13, 2009, from Standing Pine Cemetery. Deacon Ben Farve officiated.

Infant Sam passed away Aug. 11 at the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, R.B. Sam & Easlin Denson; & a brother, Tyler Brae'Dean Sam.

Survivors include his parents, Braden Sam & Deesha M. Willis of Walnut Grove; brothers, Tyrus C-Ray Sam & DeAngelo Lovato; paternal grandparents, Bobby Sam & Charlene Denson Sam of Walnut Grove; maternal grandparents, Michelle Sockey of Walnut Grove & James Willis Sr. of Philadelphia; paternal great-grandmothers, Mary Sam of Carthage & Lucille Chickaway of Philadelphia; maternal great-grandparents, Zula Jim of Philadelphia & Clyde Sockey of Walnut Grove, & Inez Willis of Philadelphia & Owen Willis of Philadelphia; & a host of relatives.

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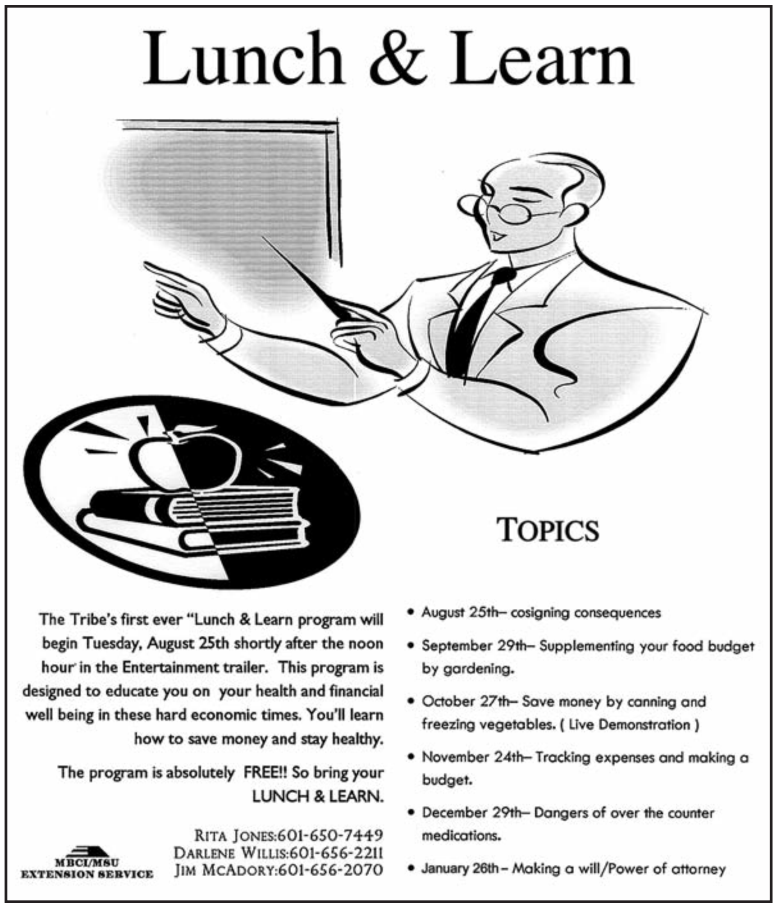

Lunch & Learn
TOPICS
The Tribe's first ever "Lunch & Learn program will begin Tuesday, August 25th shortly after the noon hour in the Entertainment trailer. This program is designed to educate you on your health and financial well being in these hard economic times. You'll learn how to save money and stay healthy.
The program is absolutely FREE!! So bring your LUNCH & LEARN.
RITA JONES:601-650-7449
DARLENE WILLIS:601-656-2211
JIM MCADORY:601-656-2070
MBCI/MSU EXTENSION SERVICE
- August 25th– cosigning consequences
- September 29th– Supplementing your food budget by gardening.
- October 27th– Save money by canning and freezing vegetables. (Live Demonstration)
- November 24th– Tracking expenses and making a budget.
- December 29th– Dangers of over the counter medications.
- January 26th – Making a will/Power of attorney

Plant now for a bountiful fall harvest

by Wayne Porter, Area Horticulture Agent, Mississippi State University Extension Service - Meridian, Miss.

submitted by Jim McAdory, MSU Extension Agent, MBCI

"Hot August nights and you can hear yourself sweat" describes the weather pretty well. So how can we even be thinking about gardening! Your spring garden has come and most likely burned up. The garden spot has become a jungle of weeds and dead plants. However, by planning and planting a fall vegetable garden, it is possible to be reaping large and varied harvests from your garden before Thanksgiving.

What do I need to do to have a successful fall garden? First, plan to have all vegetables mature or be nearly mature by the first freeze. You can use protective coverings such as mulch, blankets, or tarps to extend the season if there is an early frost. If your warm-season crops survive the first frost, it is usually several weeks until the next one. Many of the cool-season vegetables are tough and can tolerate a light frost.

What can you grow in the fall garden? Forget about those warm-season vegetables that take 80 or more days to mature. Watermelons and cantaloupes need both the warm days and nights of June and July to produce ripe fruit. Okra, eggplant, and hot peppers are not good candidates for the fall garden either because they have similar requirements for warm weather. Tomatoes and bell peppers will make a partial crop.

What is left to plant? Squash, cucumbers, southern peas, and snap beans will produce good crops if planted by mid-August. All the leafy lettuces can be started now as well as mustard, turnips, spinach, kale, beets, and carrots. Red and green cabbage, broccoli, collards, and cauliflower transplants can be set out. Radishes can be ready to eat in 30 days. Shallots, garlic, and some onions can be planted in late-August or early September.

If you are planting lettuce or carrot seeds, plant them shallowly, and then water them well. Place a board over the row until the sprouts reach the soil surface. The board will help to retain moisture and keep the soil cool. Remove the board as soon as seedlings appear so

..........continued next page

that they receive full sun. Another possibility is to start lettuce transplants in a shaded area or in a cool indoor area. August plantings of leaf lettuce can be tricky because fluctuating temperatures can cause them to go to seed.

After your crops are up and going, apply mulch to help hold moisture, cool the soil surface, and control weeds. Adequate water is necessary to keep the young plants going in this hot weather. They will need about one inch of water each week if it does not rain.

Some of the best quality vegetables are produced during the warm days and cool nights of the fall season. Cauliflower, carrots, and broccoli which might not have produced well in the spring because the weather got too hot prior to harvest, will grow better in the fall garden.

If you want to see a great fall garden, visit the plantings at the Fall Flower and Garden Fest at the Truck Crop Research Station in Crystal Springs on October 16-17, 2009.

When you are sitting at the dinner table on a chilly, fall evening, enjoying your bountiful fall harvest, the hard, hot work you did in late summer will be a fleeting memory. Get up, go fight the heat, dry weather, and insects because the effort is worthy of the prize!

COMMEMORATING IRENE LEWIS MINGO'S BIRTHDAY ON SEPTEMBER 10, 1940

As children, we can't comprehend or fully realize, the meaning of our mother's love, how tender and how wise.

The patience and forgiveness that are part of everyday, the unexpected "little things" she does in her own way.

Years go by before we can look back on life and see, through older eyes and wiser hearts her love and loyalty.

And yet it's these and other special things we'll hold so dear, for memories of her steadfast love will keep her ever near.

- Charlotte Sam, Phillip Mingo Jr.,
Olivia Mingo, & Leanna Hunter Nickey

(PICTURED LEFT)
***CONGRATULATIONS** to Hailey & Hannah Williams and the Xplosion team for winning the 2009 Dizzy Dean World Series in Southaven, Miss. Love from your grandmother, Yazzie & Omar.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

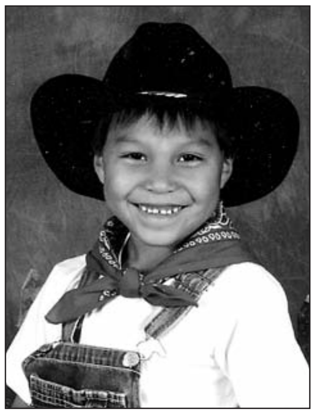
Happy Birthday to Willie Tubby on Sept. 2, & to Miya Alexisa Steve who turns 8 on Sept. 3... Happy Birthday to Malachi Steve on Sept. 10, to John Keith Evans who turns 15 on Sept. 21, also to Myrik Heath McMillan who's first birthday will be Sept. 29 - from everyone who loves you!

Happy Birthday to Gary McMillan on Sept. 1, from Community Health.

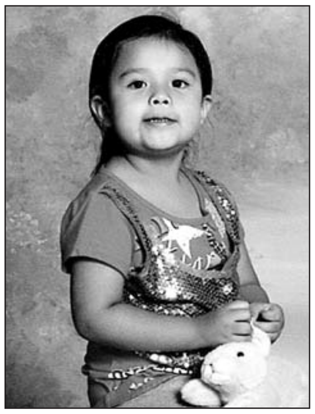
Happy 5th Birthday to Jeremiah Bill Mingo, Jr. (a.k.a. Fat Boy) on Aug. 29 & Happy 27th Birthday to Jeremiah Bill Mingo, Sr. (a.k.a. Chewy) on Sept. 21, from Tracy & the kids. We love you both always.

Happy Birthdays to the following - Keyona Billy on Sept. 4, Chanda Lewis on Sept. 7, Tyus Whitecrow on Sept. 10, Keshaun Willis on Sept. 19, Brandon McMillan on Sept. 23,

................see BIRTHDAYS, pg. 16

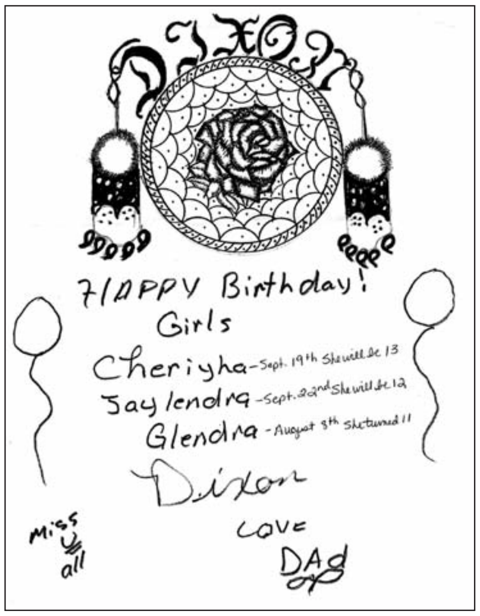


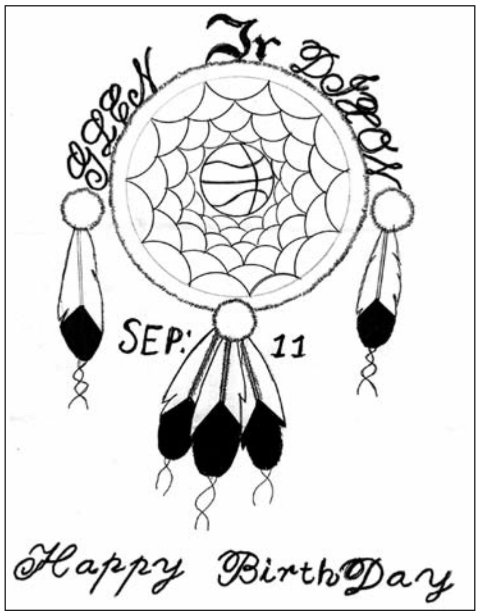
Happy 7th Birthday to Brayson "Kidd" Samuel on Sept. 12, from your family! We love you very much!

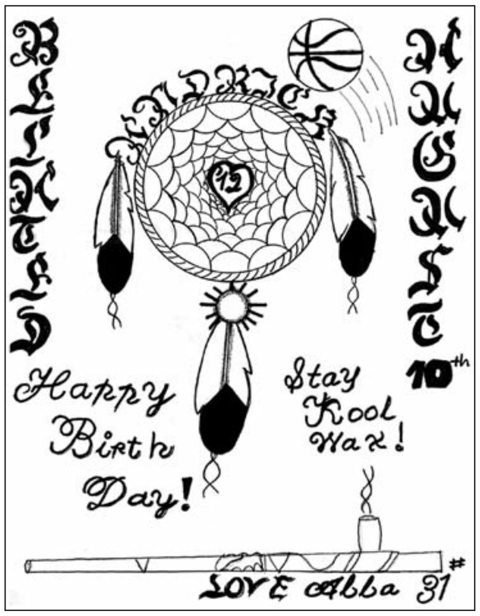


Happy 4th Birthday to Jaliah Rashad! From Mom, Mamo, Papo, Arrah, Tesa, Erin, cousins Taelan, Anna & Kam.

Happy 4th Birthday Jaliah Rashad! Lots of love from Momma, Daddy, Stella, X, Sunni, Tatum, Channa, Taylor, Grandma Dora & Papo Butch.


DIXON
HAPPY Birthday!
Girls
Cheriyha - Sept. 19th She will be 13
Jaylendra - Sept. 22nd She will be 12
Glendra - August 8th She turned 11
Dixon
Miss U all
Love
DAD

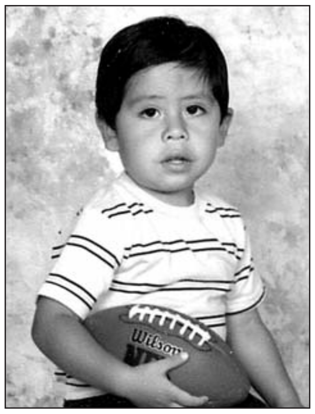



10th
Happy Birth Day!
Stay Kool Wax!
LOVE Abba 31

BIRTHDAYS .... continued from page fifteen

Happy Happy 6th Birthday to our little "Tita Girl" Leanna Hunter Nickey on Sept. 7, from your "Ahpo Fred", Charlotte & family & your Auntie Olivia.

Our baby girl turns 1 year old on Sept. 18. Happy Birthday Malena Lynn Sockey, from Dad, Kristie Lynn, Nick, Zack, G-Ma & G-Pa Tubby.



Happy 4th Birthday to Mr. Hayden C. Thomas on Sept. 8, 2009. With love, hugs & kisses from your Mom & sisters, Nedra & Haylen.

Myrik McMillan on Sept. 29, & Jamie K. Willis. Happy Birthday yall & have a good one. With much love from "Butch".

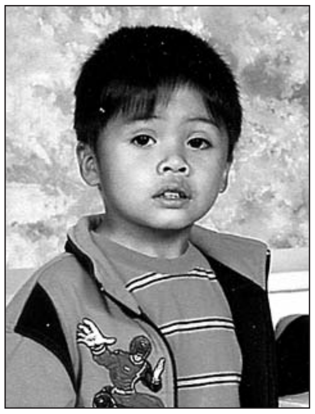
Happy Birthday Billy G. Hudson (a.k.a. Juiceman). Love from Mom, Isaiah, Aunt Mavis, & the rest of the family.

Happy 16th Birthday Jermaine. We love you! From your sisters & brothers Reyne, Steven & Zack... Happy 16th Birthday Maine. We love you! from your niece, Mae Mae, your sister & AJ.

Happy Belated Birthday Mrs. Michelle Sockey-Stephens on Aug. 19. Hope you enjoyed your birthday & don't over do it! Love ya from Deesha & DeAngelo Willis & Braden Sam.

Happy Birthday to Billy "Chinuse" Wayne Gibson-Willis on Sept. ??! Don't over do it! From your Standing Pine friends & family.

We would like to wish our mom, Ms. Renita K. Willis, a Happy Birthday on Sept. 21, 2009. We love you Mom! From your kids, Nedra, Hayden & Haylen.



To our handsome lil boy, Arral Ivan - Happy 5th Birthday on Sept. 15. Thank God for blessing us with a wonderful lil boy. We love you always from Mommy, Grandma, Pappo, your sisters Ayshah & Kenisha, Auntie, Lori, Leah, & Ob. Enjoy your special day!

Happy 8th Birthday on Aug. 29 to Ayshah Sherelle. You are growing up so fast & growing up to be a beautiful girl. We love you so much! lots of love from Mommy, Gram, Pappo, your only sis Kenisha, your bro Arral, Auntie, Ob, & Cousins Lori & Leah. Have fun on your birthday!

CHOCTAW
COMMUNITY
NEWS

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SEPTEMBER 2009

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6TH ANNUAL FAMILY REUNION
STEVEN & LILLY (WILLIS) ISAAC
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2009

The 6th Annual Family Reunion will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2009, at the Pearl River (Community) Pavilion in Choctaw from 10:00 a.m. until. Our branch of the family tree is looking bigger & better. Orders for T-Shirts is due & payable by September 30, 2009, at $10.00 each. Make plans to join us & notify family members out of state to come join us.

CONTACT PERSONS:
Doris Billy @ 601-267-9526 (home) or 601-389-6333
Thelma Barnes at 601-650-0021
Maggeline Truss at 601-781-7700
Robert Paul Tubby (Phone No. unavailable)
Barry Ben (No. unavailable)

BRING CHAIRS & A COVERED DISH

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

VOL. XXXIX, NO. 10 CHOCTAW, MS 39350 OCTOBER 2009

TRIBAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

Official results released in Crystal Ridge, Tucker Tribal Council elections

Incumbent Ann M. Wesley of the Crystal Ridge Community and Peter J. Steve of the Tucker Community were declared winners of the Choctaw Tribal Council elections held on Tuesday, August 25, according to official results released by the Tribal Election Committee.

Absentee ballots were counted on Wednesday, August 26.

Both Wesley and Steve were elected to four-year terms expiring in 2013.

According to official results, incumbent Wesley received 52 total votes to win the Crystal Ridge seat. Candidates Chris Eaves had 42 votes and Joseph Wesley 5.

In Tucker, Steve received 131 total votes. Incumbent Tony Martin had 88 votes, Linda F. McMillan 78, Eric Nickey 20, Billy Thompson 5, John L. Chickaway 3, and Lee R. Chickaway 2.

The Aug. 25 elections were held after the Tribal Council threw out results of the June 9 Crystal Ridge and Tucker community elections after it was determined that election policies were violated.

Candidates receiving the

.......see ELECTION, pg. 3

Ann M. Wesley

Peter J. Steve

Tucker
John L. Chickaway
Lee R Chickaway
Tony Martin
Linda McMillan
Peter Steve
Thompson

During the ballot counting process on Wednesday, Aug. 26, Tribal election officials review ballots to make sure every qualified vote is counted.

MBCI representatives visit White House

On August 31st, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Chief of Staff Barry McMillan and Lenor Scheffler, Special Legal Counsel, attended a listening session at the White House. Over 150 tribal leaders and representatives from across the country participated in the session which began a dialogue between the Obama administration and Indian Country.

The meeting was partly the result of a question asked of then Senator Obama during the presidential campaign. At a meeting of Tribal leaders in New Mexico, Mi̱ko Denson asked how an Obama administration would collaborate with Native Americans. In response, Senator Obama pledged to have a senior advisor on Native American affairs in the White House with whom all policy decisions affecting Native Americans would be discussed.

He committed to convening a meeting of tribal leaders to discuss tribal issues at least once a year and stated that an Obama administration's relationship with Indian Country would be one based on "respect and mutual regard."

On June 15, Kimberly Teehee, an Oklahoma Cherokee with Mississippi Choctaw ties, was appointed Senior Policy Advisor for Native American Affairs. As a member of the Domestic Policy Council, Teehee advises the President on issues impacting Indian Country.

Teehee convened the listening session with the goal of encouraging communication between the administration and tribes and making good on President Obama's promise.

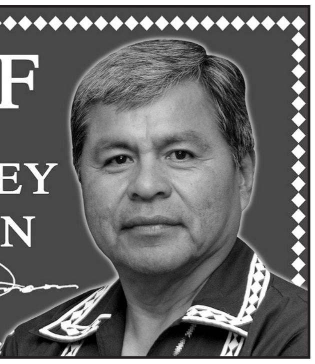
Also on the panel, were Jodi Gillette of the Standing

.......see MEETING, pg. 3

Warriors win Battle of the Nations XIII

The Choctaw Central Warriors (4-0) trounced the visiting Cherokee (N.C.) Braves 37-8 to win the 13th edition of the Battle of the Nations Sept. 11 at Warrior Stadium in Choctaw. After going 1-9 last season, the Warriors are riding a four game winning streak as they prepare for the upcoming 5-3A division games. Cherokee, with their first loss of the season, still leads the series 8-5.

FROM THE OFFICE OF MIKO BEASLEY DENSON



Indian Country and the Executive Branch

The Obama administration held a listening session for Native American leaders on August 31st. It was convened by Kimberly Teehee, an Oklahoma Cherokee with Choctaw relatives. She was appointed Senior Policy Advisor for Native American Affairs by President Obama. Details of the meeting are on pages 1 and 3.

It says a lot about how far Indian Country has come in its politics that this session ever took place. It was a very good, but modest, first step in terms of our relationship with the executive branch.

The goal was to open the lines of communication and begin a dialogue between Indian Country and the White House, part of a promise the President made while he was campaigning for the office he now holds.

In the dialogue with Indian Country that I hope will result, it will be important to remind the President of the other things he has said regarding Indian Country and hold him accountable for them. He has promised a nation to nation relationship with Indian Country based on respect and mutual regard. This new attitude is important as it has not always existed.

Indian Country must insist that President Obama keep his promises to consult with Indian Country before creating laws and regulations that affect us and that the initial listening session was only the first step toward the creation of an annual conference of tribes.

It is not enough to simply speak and be heard, Indian Country should expect action on the part of the federal government; our sovereignty must be respected and treaties with us honored.

For too long, the lack of a unified political voice has allowed politicians at all levels to skirt issues and evade their various responsibilities to us. That federal funding directed to Indian Country has not been sufficient to address our basic needs is evident. For decades before the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975 was passed, it was common practice for the federal government to try and renege on its obligations to tribes.

The August 31st meeting and the sincerity expressed by the administration's representatives in attendance bodes well for the beginning of a new, and long overdue, federal government posture toward the first Americans.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

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P. O. BOX 6010
CHOCTAW, MS 39350

TELEPHONE 601-663-7736 FAX 601-656-6696

Melford Farve .... Communications Officer
Brian C. Willis .... Communications Editor
Kathie Henry .... Communications Assistant
Bradley Isaac .... Communications Assistant
Stephanie Farmer .... Communications Assistant

Items of interest to the local & Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER 2009 ISSUE IS FRIDAY, OCT. 2, AT 12 NOON.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy

Indian Country, and all minority populations within the United States, lost a longtime ally with the passing of Senator Edward M. "Ted" Kennedy of Massachusetts.

Kennedy became U.S. Senator in a 1962 special election to fill the seat formerly held by his brother John F. Kennedy, who was elected President in 1960. Ted Kennedy won a full term in 1964 and was re-elected seven times making him one of the longest serving Senators in U.S. History

Kennedy was instrumental in the passage of the Indian Education Act. Before its passage in 1972, Congress was fully aware of the lack of educational opportunities for Native Americans but refused to act. The Indian Education Act created new educational opportunities for our children and provided federal assistance in education above the limited funds appropriated through other means.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Indian Education, he wrote the forward to Indian Education: A National Tragedy - A National Challenge. In it Kennedy said, "Clearly, effective education lies at the heart of any lasting solution. And that education should no longer be one which assumes that cultural differences mean cultural inferiority."

Kennedy, 77, was diagnosed with malignant brain cancer earlier this year. He died in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts.

Choctaw Elderly Activity Center trip to Oklahoma

Seventy-six Choctaw elders travelled to Tushka Homma for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's Labor Day Festival.

Like our Choctaw Indian Fair, the festival features music, games, pow-wows, arts and crafts, the crowning of the Choctaw Nation princess and other events. Choctaw Elderly Activity Center Program Director Mary John said that our elders had a great time and there was much excitement surrounding the trip.

Our elders were greeted by Choctaw Nation Tribal Council member Delton Cox who is married to Delores

..........continued next page

Miko Denson presents a check to Norma Steve to fund the Elderly Activity Center's trip to Oklahoma. Also pictured are, front row from left, center receptionist Beatrice Willis, Miko Denson, Norma Steve, center manager Mary John; back row, Tribal Council member Troy Chickaway, Tribal Secretary-Treasurer Lola Parkerson, center office manager Shaundareka Samuel, Vice Miko Harrison Ben, & Henry Williams.

There are no Choctaw Tribal Council resolution summaries to report in the October issue.

Thompson from our Tucker Community. Many of our elders connected with relatives in Oklahoma during the trip.

Money to fund the trip came from Tribal Government and from the proceeds of a charity golf tournament organized by Henry Williams of Conehatta. Keeping tradition and connections alive among our tribe and between our tribe and others is important. I was glad to be able to help the Elderly Activity Center and thank Henry Williams for his contribution as well.

Beasley Denson,
Tribal Mi̱ko

ELECTION .... continued from page one

most votes in their respective communities in the June 9 election were Chris Eaves of Crystal Ridge and Peter Steve of Tucker.

According to published reports, violations included an election official in Crystal Ridge opening a ballot box before the election was officially declared over. In Tucker, a minor entered the polling place with a T-shirt advertising the name of a candidate. Candidates cannot advertise within 150 feet of a polling place, according to Tribal election rules.

Council members elected in the June 9 elections were incumbents Ronnie Henry, Sr., of Bogue Chitto, Lola McMillan Parkerson of Pearl River and Kevin J. Edwards of Standing Pine.

Newly elected representatives were Doris Ann Thompson of Bogue Chitto and Gregory R. Shoemake of Conehatta.

Former council members Roger Anderson of Conehatta and Edward Wesley of Pearl River were also elected for another term on the council. Terms will expire in 2013.

Other members of the council, with terms expiring in 2011, include Sammy Clemmons, Jr. of Bogue Chitto, Berdie Steve of Bogue Homa, Troy Chickaway of Conehatta, Cyrus Ben of Pearl River, Phyliss J. Anderson and Myrtle Ben of Red Water, Harrison Ben of Standing Pine, and Dorothy Wilson of Tucker.

MEETING .... continued from page one

Rock Sioux Tribe, Deputy Associate Director White House Office of Inter-governmental Affairs, Dr. Yvette Roubideaux of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, the Indian Health Service Director and Donald Laverdure, a Crow serving as Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.

Comments from attendees covered a range of issues including sovereignty and the preservation of culture and many speakers thanked the panel and the President for the energy they are putting into working with tribes.

Several speakers suggested the White House create a website and blog to keep tribes informed of federal efforts affecting them. Other tribal leaders requested tribes be consulted in advance of any regulatory or statutory changes affecting them and recalled the 1994 listening session with President Clinton where they said ideas were raised but there was no follow-up. Others suggested using technology to include tribes who are not able to attend meetings because of lack of resources.

Numerous leaders suggested that the administration's cabinet secretaries visit Indian country to get a truer sense of the situation and gave specific examples of break downs of communication and lack of consultation which adversely impacted tribes during the Bush administration.

After the listening session, McMillan and Scheffler had private conversations with Dr. Roubideaux regarding the Joint Venture hospital program application that has been submitted to IHS. Roubideaux was encouraged and requested periodic updates.

The Choctaw delegation also had a private conversation with Jodi Gillette. Gillette emphasized her desire to keep communications open and requested a meeting with Miko Denson on his next visit to Washington.

"The Obama administration's liaisons know Indian country, are tribally enrolled people, care passionate about their work and are committed to getting things done. They acknowledge that there will be some disagreements, but at least they are willing to talk and allow us to educate each other about issues," said Scheffler.

McMillan said of the meeting, "As a Mississippi Choctaw and as a Native American, it meant a lot to be able to participate, with so many other tribal leaders, in this conversation with President Obama's administration.

I felt like I was seeing the beginning of the positive, working government to government relationship that Indian Country has sought for so long. I appreciate the administration's outreach to Indian Country and the listening session.

Sadly, it would have been truer to history for President Obama to ignore the promises he made on the campaign trail. I am looking forward to a new direction from the federal government and working with Kim Teehee in her capacity as senior advisor on Native American affairs. I know she has the best interests of the Indian Country in her heart."

Elected Councilman Steve thanks supporters

To the People of Tucker:

Thank you for your confidence in me. You will find what I said during the campaign to be true. I promise that no one will put more effort into making Tucker the best community than I will. I will work for unity among tribal members and tribal council members and focus my energy on things that serve all of us. I look forward to joining Dorothy Wilson and the rest of the council in that effort.

To all my supporters, I want to say yakoki and whether you voted for me or not I will strive to represent you.

Congratulations to my opponents - Tony Martin, Linda McMillan, John Chickaway, Billy Thompson, Lee Chickaway, and Eric Nickey - who all ran good races. I appreciate your desire to serve Tucker. Let's move past the differences we had during the campaigns and unite to create a stronger community.

Lastly, I want to thank my family for their support. My wife, Rita, was with me every step of the campaign and my mother, Rosalie, has always served as a guiding light. Yakoki!

NEWS FROM THE Pearl River Resort

Choctaw, MS

RESORT FINANCES LOOK STRONGER IN 2010

Pearl River Resort managers presented the resort's budget in early September and it shows growth that could exceed $10 million for next year.

"It means more money both for the Tribe and operation of the government," said resort President and CEO General Paul Harvey. "We will remain vigilant in our efforts to control expenses and, most importantly, provide the best experience for our guests."

Even though economic problems persist in the gaming industry, Pearl River Resort's financial future is improving.

"The economy may be slowly improving slightly and we are now out-performing most, if not all, casinos in Mississippi," said Harvey. "We reduced expenses by nearly 25 percent and increased profits by 35 percent while maintaining our high level of customer service."

The Resort's management team has moved cautiously after making the sweeping changes that began in January. In an effort to deal with these difficult financial times, some casinos have gone too far reducing expenses, so much so that their day-to-day operations have suffered.

Pearl River Resort's management understood that reducing too much could also limit customer service and have a negative over-all impact on the Resort and Tribe.

"We knew it was important to know where to draw the line and stop cutting in order to prevent a decline in our customers' experience at the Resort. Furthermore, we will be ready to respond in a very positive manner as the economy rebounds in the future," said General Harvey.

Remo's: New Look, New Feel

Remo's restaurant has undergone some changes. Remo's Italian Restaurant reopened September 4th with a new look and a new feel. Remo's will showcase its new more casual and upbeat atmosphere with seven large-screen LCD televisions.

Remo's will be the coolest place in town to enjoy a great meal while watching your favorite sports team on Direct TV, NFL Ticket and College Game Day. Remo's is also introducing a new customer-choice menu full of great value.

MAKING SENSE OF GAMING'S BIG CRASH

By Liz Benston, Las Vegas Sun,
August 10, 2009
Reprinted by permission

Gaming companies around the world are slogging through the worst-ever financial environment in the industry's history.

"I have personally and professionally worked with all three senior corporate executives quoted in this article," said Resort President and CEO General Paul Harvey. "They are considered as the best in the business and their comments are very accurate and to the point. We have worked very, very hard to minimize the impact of the economic downturn in the gaming industry and we continue to focus on maintaining market share and profitability at Pearl River Resort."

LAS VEGAS, Nevada - Imagine that you're a retired gaming executive and you're watching the industry crash all around you, in the biggest recession in the modern casino era.

You take a deep breath, counting your lucky stars you're retired but wondering: What could I have done differently? What would I do now?

The Sun invited three former casino executives to sit down for a Sunday Conversation, to candidly reflect, with the benefit of 20-20 hindsight, about the gaming industry - then, now and in the future.

Together, they talked about bad assumptions, questionable decisions and getting caught up in the go-go boom years, second-guessed shifting strategies and talked about what can and should be learned about the industry and its customers.

The trio: Phil Satre, former CEO of Harrah's Entertainment; Don Snyder, former president of Boyd Gaming; and Glenn Christenson, former chief financial officer of Station Casinos. Each is still active in corporate, civic and philanthropic life in Southern Nevada, but it was their days in the casino board rooms that we wanted to explore.

We wanted to get inside their heads, and they let us.

The following is based on a transcript that was edited for length and clarity.

We launched this Sunday Conversation by asking whether they were glad they are out of the business.

Phil Satre, retired from Harrah's: It's much more difficult to be an executive in this business and have as much fun as I had in the 25 years I was at Harrah's. We had ups and downs, we had layoffs from time to time, we had projects that didn't meet our expectations, we had significant stock price drops and, fortunately, increases, but never did I experience this sustained economic malaise that my colleagues are facing now.

Don Snyder, retired from Boyd: We've been through some ups and downs over the years but we're faced with an intensity now that's unprecedented and has to be taking a lot of the fun out of what we had done in years past. It's a triple witching hour: Companies are highly leveraged, have high cost structures and are stuck in a tough operating environment.

Glenn Christenson, retired from Station: The conditions we have today are somewhat outside of our control. Who could have predicted this kind of global financial meltdown? I still keep in touch with people on Wall Street and they second-guess the leverage and the construction of these projects - all of which they supported at the time they were proposed. I don't think things would be this bad had the recession been less severe.

Satre: What people didn't recognize, including those in Las Vegas, was how much the town's appeal was based on the discretionary income that people had developed through 401(k)s, appreciated home values and easy access to financing. It sustained us at a period when we were focused on building great restaurants, entertainment and hotel rooms. We were building compelling products but living off consumers who had a discretionary spending level that was probably

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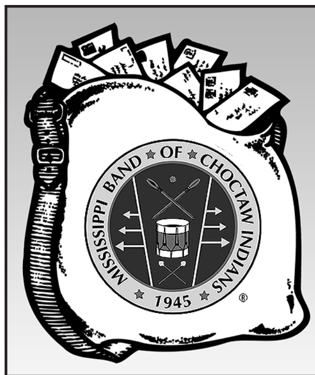
MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS
1945

FROM THE MAILBAG

Honorable Mi̱ko Denson:

On behalf of the Pechanga Band Of Luiseno Indians and the Pechanga Law and Justice Advisory Committee we would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to visit the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indian Reservation and for sharing your Tribe's progress with us. We were quite impressed with your economic development endeavors and specifically the development of your tribal court system at the Smith John Justice Complex. We had a wonderful and informative experience. The vision of the Choctaw people and Choctaw Self-Determination was especially impressive. It is knowledge and great to see Indian Self-Determination at work.

We would like to give a special thank you for the warm introduction to us at the 60th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair. The Choctaw people showed us southern hospitality at its best throughout our trip. We extend an invitation to you to visit our Pechanga Indian Reservation in Southern California. We look forward to working with you and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians in the future.

Sincerely,
Andrew Masiel, Sr.
Councilman

McCravey Estate bequeaths McNeal painting to Tribe

CHOCTAW, Miss. - The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is indeed honored and delighted to have been included recently among the beneficiaries in the Last Will and Testament of Mrs. Mary Katharine Loyacono McCravey, of Forest, Miss.

McCravey, 99, passed away at her home earlier this year following a brief illness; we were all saddened by her passing.

McCravey bequeathed to the Tribe an original work of art that was among her collection. The work, a 20" x 16" original oil painting on canvas, was painted by Jackson artist P. Sanders McNeal. Titled "Legacy in Neshoba County," the painting features a seated Choctaw woman, dressed in bright yellow, making a cane basket in the age-old tradition for which the Tribe is famous.

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation not only to the McCravey Estate and its executors, but also to Ms. Barbara Gatewood of the Gatewood

........see PAINTING, pg. 6

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unsustainable once you removed some factors, like home values, access to credit and a sense of having wealth.

Snyder: The loss of wealth and perceived loss of wealth were a significant factor. At more normal levels of leverage we probably could have gotten through this a little bit better. The operating costs that go with these very large and expensive properties was taken to the extreme. People were living beyond their means, which created a false sense of security for those of us building in those days.

Christenson: Consumer confidence is key. As an industry, we were previously resistant to recessions and now we're very highly correlated with what's going on in the national economy. When people are worried about having a job or have seen their 401(k)s decimated, if your home's value is half what it used to be, it's hard to say, "I've got to run out to Las Vegas or run down to my favorite local casino."

If you were in the hot seat at your companies, would you have detected any early warning signs? Is there anything you could have done to soften the blow?

Christenson: Some of this was beyond our control. All of us, when we looked at acquisitions or other deals, examined pro forma figures reflecting a base case, an optimistic case and a pessimistic case. We didn't look two or three standard deviations out at how bad things could be, which is where we are now. In hindsight you can argue about leverage ratios but I don't think anyone could have planned for this.

Snyder: I remember years ago saying, "Boy, things have gone up for so long. Can it really continue?" and then rationalizing all the factors that suggested that growth could continue. I think we all got caught up in that. Current management didn't do a better or worse job than we would have on any of those issues.

Tribal members assist in documentary

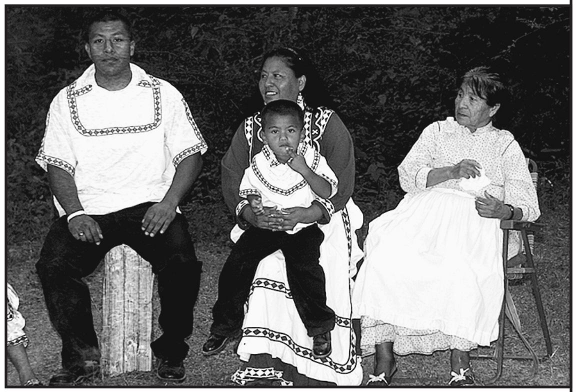
Visitors from Ireland came to Choctaw on Friday, July 24 to film a five-minute documentary about the Choctaws during the time of the removal & of the donation of money to the Irish people.

Geraldine Heffernan, director & producer of the documentary, was grateful to the administration & Tribal members who assisted in making this documentary a reality.

"Everyone we met was so kind and pleasant. It really makes me look forward to coming back to Philadelphia to shoot a full documentary, hopefully, if it comes through for us. I can't think of a more beautiful place to film & the people could not be nicer."

Locations filmed for the documentary included Nanih Waiya (the Mother Mound) & the Bogue Chitto Community. Tribal members Earline Hickman, Clay Wesley, & Mabel Jackson & her family took part in the filming.

Ms. Heffernan plans to take this short documentary & show it to different organizations, such as the History Channel, in the hopes of getting the green light to make a full documentary.



LEFT, pictured from left are Cathal Watters, director of photography; Corey Easley, sound man from Jackson; Geraldine Heffernan, producer/director; & Choctaw historian, artist & shoot advisor Gary White Deer of Ada, Okla. **RIGHT**, Tribal members in the documentary were, from left, Bracey Billie, Flora Billie, Koie Williams, & Mabel Jackson. *(Photos by Kathie Henry, CCN)*

PAINTING .... continued from page five

Gallery in Forest for her assistance and cooperation related to the bequest.

McCravey, who was a friend of the Tribe and also a very close friend of the artist Sandy McNeal, was herself a talented and nationally acclaimed artist.

Born on April 1, 1910, in Forest, McCravey, after completing high school in her hometown, later studied art at Belhaven College in Jackson, the University of Chicago, the Art Institute of Chicago, the University of Colorado, the Art Colony in Rockport at Cape Ann, Mass., and the Art Colony of Taos in New Mexico.

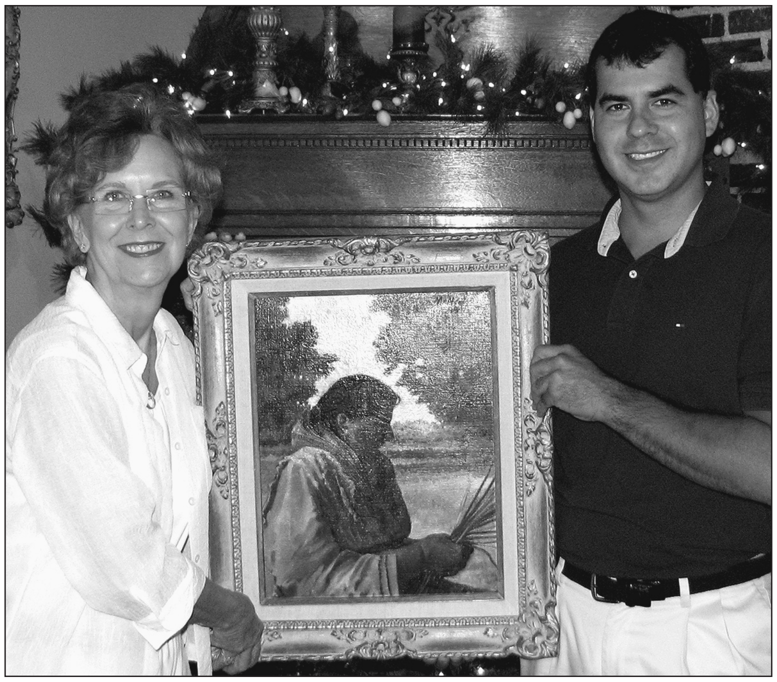
McCravey served as an art teacher for over 30 years in the Jackson Public Schools, retiring in 1968. She was the wife of Mr. W.D. “Bill” McCravey, who enjoyed a long and successful tenure as President of the Bank of Forest.

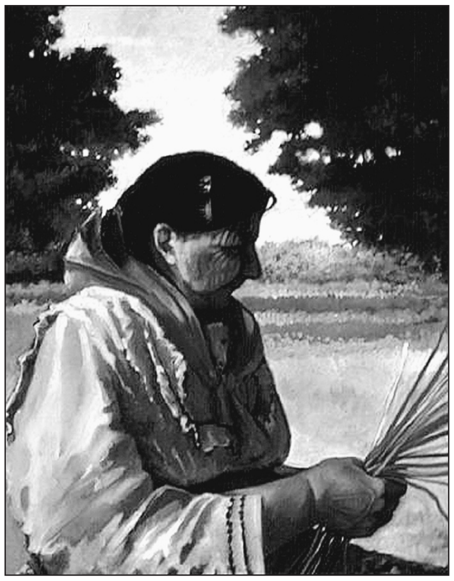
During her lifetime, McCravey earned many accolades and popular recognition for her outstanding artistry as a painter. As an icon in the world of art, she was featured in many art exhibitions and was honored over the years with many one-person art shows.

Her original oil paintings are now on exhibit in various museums, corporate headquarters, schools, colleges, universities, libraries, and private collections throughout the South and across the nation.

In 2004, Mrs. McCravey was honored to receive the Governor’s Excellence in the Arts “Lifetime Achievement” Award; a Mississippi State Senate Concurrent Resolution also paid tribute to her that year.

In 1986, McCravey received recognition as “Citizen of the Year” by the Forest Chamber of Commerce. In 1987, Forest Community Arts proclaimed Mary Katharine McCravey Day; and one of her most cherished honors was being acclaimed “1972 Belhaven Alumnus of the Year,” 40 years after her graduation.





ABOVE, *The Tribe receives McNeal Painting as Bequest from Estate of Mary Katharine McCravey. Pictured are Barbara Gatewood (left) of Gatewood Gallery, Forest, & John Ferguson of MBCI Administration.* **RIGHT**, *Original oil on canvas painting (1995) by P. Sanders McNeal of Jackson. Title of Work: “A Legacy in Neshoba County”.*

Over the past 25 years, McCravey painted primarily for exhibits, and she fully donated her artwork to charities and fund-raising events. Among her own self-produced art works, which numbered well over 100, McCravey also owned paintings by other renowned Mississippi artists, including Marie Hull, as well as Ms. Sandy McNeal, who is the artist who painted the work recently inherited by the Tribe from the McCravey Estate.

P. Sanders McNeal is a nationally recognized artist who has been painting portraits, landscapes, still life, and figurative studies professionally for over 30 years. A classical realist who works out of her studio in Jackson, she brings painting to life through her expert use of light, attention to detail, and knowledge of place.

She travels yearly to work in other areas of the world and has painted on location in the U.S., Ireland, France and Italy. McNeal’s paintings are included in a number of prestigious public and private collections, and she has shown in solo shows and group exhibitions throughout the U.S. Her work has also been exhibited internationally.

She is the recipient of numerous awards and honors in her field, and she takes commissions for both public and private work. In addition, McNeal’s love of combining art and performance has made her a recognized scenic

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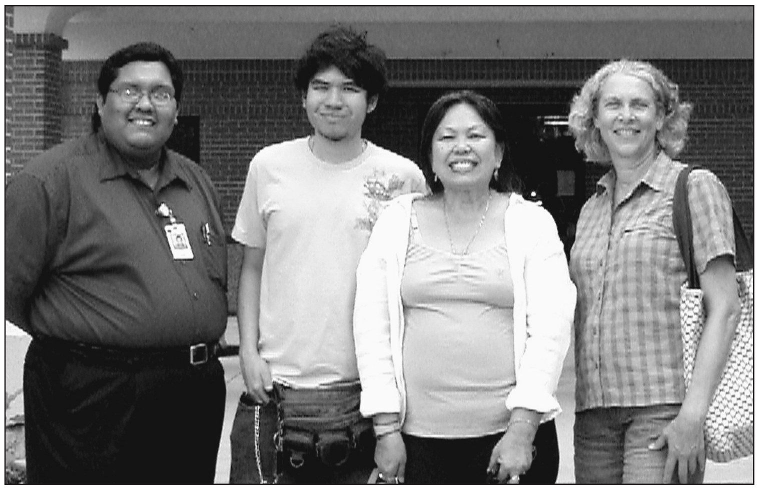
Tribal visitors



From left are Fred Willis of MBCI Public Information, visitors Gabriel Mercado, Nawaparn Mercado, & Elaine Gelbard.

On Thursday, August 27, three guests visited the Choctaw Indian Reservation. Ms. Nawaparn Mercado brought her son, Gabriel, to Choctaw to learn more about the Tribe and its rich culture and heritage.

Ms. Mercado and her son are from Bangkok, Thailand. Ms. Mercado is a retired teacher and is also a former student of the University of Mississippi in Oxford. Her son is studying at a community college in Mount Vernon, WA. While they were in the States, Ms. Mercado wanted to show him her alma mater. She also wanted him to see the Choctaw Reservation, which she herself had visited in 1980 and 1981.

Mrs. Elaine Gelbard, a friend of Ms. Mercado’s, is a dance teacher at Ole Miss, and she was also interested in visiting the Tribe and seeing its unique heritage.

The three guests went on a drive-about tour of the reservation. They stopped at the Choctaw Museum where they got to see some beautiful Choctaw works of art. All three enjoyed their visit and were looking forward to coming back soon.

designer and muralist.

McNeal's work has been accepted in juried exhibitions from New York to New Orleans, and she was selected as a finalist from over 5,000 entries in the 1989 still life painting competition for The Artist's Magazine.

McNeal has shown in numerous one-person shows and group exhibitions throughout Mississippi and in New York, New Orleans, and Dallas, as well as The Burt Reynolds Institute for Theatre in Jupiter, Fla., and Dublin, Ireland. McNeal has a work currently hanging at Kenny's in Galway, Ireland.

In the spring of 1998, she exhibited in a show entitled Ciao Italia, a three woman collaborative at the Carsie Gallery in Jackson. She was the 1997 honoree of the Mississippi affiliate of the American Heart Association's Art for Heart charity auction and the first commissioned artist for Jubilee JAM's 10 painting series with her painting, "The Rehearsal", now hanging in Thalia Mara Hall.

McNeal was selected as a "Power of One" Honoree for the Mississippi Woman '99 Conference, a nonpolitical event promoting personal and professional excellence among women, and was the recipient of the 1999 Governor's Artist Achievement Award for Excellence in the Visual Arts.

McNeal was honored as the cover artist for the Candlelighters Year 2000 calendar. The Candlelighters fund-raising supports research in childhood cancer at the Blair Batson Children's Hospital in Jackson.

In September 2000, she exhibited at Southside Gallery in Oxford. McNeal's painting "Secrets in the Chest" was included in Motifs In Time, an invitational show at the Walter Anderson Museum of Art in Ocean Springs, summer 2002.

On August 1, 2002, she opened a one-person show with original music by Maestro Colman Pearce at The Bridge Gallery in Dublin, Ireland.

McNeal studied in Argenton-Chateau, France, for three months in the summer of 2003. A showing of her figurative works done in France was exhibited at Nunnery's Gallery in Jackson in the fall of 2003.

In August 2004, McNeal studied at the Florence Academy of Art, Florence, Italy, (plein air) and in September with Daniel E. Greene, N.A. (plein air) in Southwest Ireland. Also in September, her work was shown at an Invitational Exhibition, My South: A celebration of southern art, music, literature and food, New York City.

In 1998, McNeal was commissioned by CNN to serve as the courtroom artist for the Sam Bowers trial that took place in Hattiesburg. Earlier, in 1994, she was commissioned by ABC to serve as affiliate artist for the Byron de la Beckwith trial, in Jackson, during which time she produced a collection of more than 30 pastel drawings.

We encourage readers to visit Sandy McNeal's website, which features a beautiful online gallery of her selected paintings, at www.sandersmcneal.com, to learn additional information about this outstanding Mississippi artist.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is extremely pleased to hold an example of Ms. McNeal's art work in our Choctaw Museum collections, and we are indeed grateful to Mrs. Mary Katharine McCravey for making her generous and meaningful gift to the Tribe.

Funding announced for Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

WASHINGTON - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced on August 19 that Indian Tribal Organizations and States operating the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) will receive approximately $1 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to purchase equipment and improve facilities needed to provide food assistance.

"It is imperative that people in the United States have access to safe and nutritious food, and through the Recovery Act, we're investing resources to enhance the availability of food on Indian Reservations and tribal lands," said Vilsack. "The Obama administration is committed to increasing the health and nutrition of people throughout the country, and these Recovery Act investments will help further that goal."

Through FDPIR, USDA purchases food that is provided to low-income households, including the elderly, living on Indian reservations, and to Native American families residing in designated areas near reservations and in the State of Oklahoma.

Currently, there are 271 tribes receiving benefits under FDPIR through 98 Indian Tribal Organizations and 5 State agencies. Almost 100,000 individuals receive a monthly FDPIR food package.

The announcement is the first in a series of FDPIR Recovery Act allocations; altogether $5 million in Recovery Act funding will be provided.

Indian Tribal Organizations and government agencies benefiting from the announcement include:

Arizona - Gila River Indian Community & Navajo Nation;

California - Riverside/San Bernardino County Indian Health, Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association & Yurok Tribe;

Idaho - Nez Perce Tribe & Shoshone-Bannock Tribes;

Kansas - Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas & United Tribes of Kansas and Southeast Nebraska;

Mississippi - Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians;

North Carolina - Cherokee Tribe of North Carolina;

New Mexico - Pueblo of Acoma;

Nevada - Yerington Paiute Tribe;

Oklahoma - Muscogee Creek Nation;

South Dakota - Lower Brule Sioux Tribe;

Washington - Quileute Indian Tribe, Quinalt Indian Nation & Spokane Tribe of Indians;

Wyoming - Shoshone Tribe.

Tribe receives funding for Dept. of Employment & Training

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) was recently awarded $277, 614 in Federal funds to provide comprehensive services to unemployed Tribal members ages 18 and older.

The Choctaw Department of Employment and Training operates a training program funded through the Department of Labor Workforce Investment Act Section 166 Indian and Native American Program (WIA).

The MBCI has operated a WIA Program since the transition from Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) to WIA in 2002.

The purpose of the Workforce Investment Act grant is to provide Workforce Development services that increase the employment, retention, and earnings of participants and increase occupational skill attainment by participants, and as a result, improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency and enhance

.......see FUNDING, pg. 12

DOECE recognizes exceptional staff

During the 2009 staff in-service, the Division of Early Childhood Education (DOECE) paid special recognition to staff members who had been voted by their co-workers to receive plaques in honor of their dedication and hard work for the past school year.

We are proud of all our staff members, but we want to recognize those that go above and beyond their necessary duties. We thank you for all you have done to make our program so exceptional.

Honored as Support Staff of the Year were Norma Willis, Bogue Chitto; William Thomas, Conehatta; Bobby Joe Willis, Crystal Ridge; Lisa Gurry, Pearl River Day Care; Barbara Willis, Pearl River EHS/IT; Stephanie Wishork, Pearl River Head Start; Landon John, Red Water; Jenna Tubby, Standing Pine; and Carol Farmer, Tucker.

Honored as Teacher of the Year were Marlana Crosby, Bogue Chitto; Brenda Bell, Bogue Homa; Tasha Sam, Conehatta; Miranda Williamson, Crystal Ridge; Diane Corley, Pearl River Day Care; Ayeasha Griffin, Pearl River Head Start; Marinda Tubby, Red Water; Pamela Melendez, Standing Pine; and Deborah Wren, Tucker.

Honored as Division Office Staff of the Year was Phyllis McMillan, Elder/Culture Coordinator.

Honored as Center Director of the Year was Royce Billy, Tucker Early Childhood Center.

Our 2009-2010 school year is in full swing. We encourage our parents to participate in center parent meetings and to have a voice in the activities in your center.

We also want to mention that enrollment is ongoing. There are still slots available in some centers. Stop by and pick up an application at the center in your community.

Child care is for children 8 weeks to 5 years, Head Start is for children ages 3 years to 5 years, and Early Head Start is for children 8 weeks to 2 years, depending on the cen-

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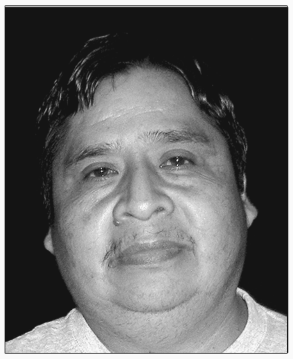
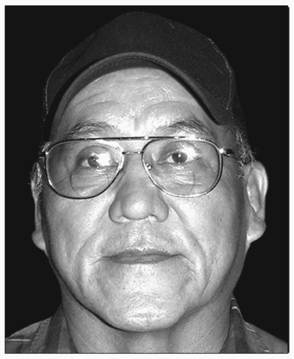
Division
of Early
Childhood
Education
Support
Staff of
the Year

Norma Willis,
Bogue Chitto

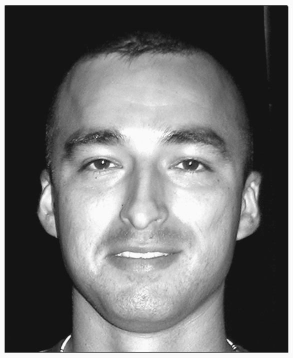

William Thomas,
Conehatta


Bobby Joe Willis,
Crystal Ridge

Lisa Gurry,
Pearl River Day Care

Barbara Willis,
Pearl River EHS/IT

Stephanie Wishork,
Pearl River Head Start


Landon John,
Red Water

Jenna Tubby,
Standing Pine

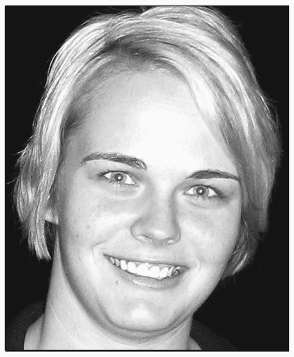
Carol Farmer,
Tucker

Division
of Early
Childhood
Education
Teacher
of the
Year

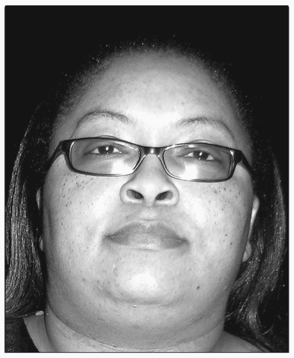
Marlana Crosby,
Bogue Chitto

Brenda Bell,
Bogue Homa

Tasha Sam,
Conehatta


Miranda Williamson,
Crystal Ridge

Diane Corley,
Pearl River Day Care


Ayeasha Griffin,
Pearl River Head Start

Marinda Tubby,
Red Water

Pamela Melendez,
Standing Pine

Deborah Wren,
Tucker

ter.

The following DOECE centers & contact persons include (center, center director/secretary, phone number):

Bogue Chitto, Lola Jackson/Norma Willis, 601-656-7224;

Bogue Homa, Suzanne Nickey, 601-428-4044;

Conehatta, Ann Jim/Allison Smith, 601-775-3845;

Crystal Ridge, Serena Stoliby, 662-779-0632;

Pearl River Day Care, Lisa Johnson/Lisa Gurry, 601-656-9221;

Pearl River Early Head Start and Infant and Toddler Center, Selma Johnson/Barbara Willis, 601-389-2899 / 601-663-0597;

Pearl River Head Start, Michelle Hickman /Gwendolyn Hickman, 601-650-1719 / 601-650-1712;

Red Water, Angela Chitto/Mia Tubby, 601-298-9282;

Standing Pine, Jessica Henry/Jenna Tubby, 601-298-1580; and

Tucker, Royce Billy/Carol Farmer, 601-389-2053.

Division Office Staff of the Year
Phyllis McMillan,
Elder/Culture Coordinator

Center Director of the Year
Royce Billy,
Tucker Early Childhood Center

FACE
(Family And Child Education)

A free family literacy program for Native Americans with children prenatal to age eight

- School readiness for preschoolers
- Parenting skills
- High school completion/GED
- Employability skills
- Culture and language enhancement

Program components:

- Home-based (pre-natal to age 5)
- Early childhood, center-based (ages 3-5)
- Adult education, center based

For more information call: 601-389-0861 or 601-656-2452 or complete the form below and someone will contact you.

Return to:
Pearl River Elementary (FACE)
470 Industrial Road
Choctaw, MS 39350

Child's Name ______ Date of Birth ______
Address ______ City ______ Zip ______
Home Phone ______ Work Phone ______ Cell ______
Best time to contact you ______
Parent's Name ______

News from the Tribal Language Program

CHOCTAW HOLIDAY PRESENTATION AT STANDING PINE ELEMENTARY

Two staff members of the Choctaw Language Program, Patty Billie and Jay Wesley, conducted a presentation about Nanih Waiya at Standing Pine Elementary School (SPES) on August 13, 2009, at the request of a community member and the principal, Jason Roberson.

They went and explained to the students the significance of the Nanih Waiya Holiday. The session was conducted in two groups at 1:30 p.m. and 2:15 p.m.: Group 1 (4th - 6th grade) and Group 2 (Pre-K - 3rd grade). There were a total of 96 SPES students and staff in attendance.

A PowerPoint show was used to detail events about Nanih Waiya and its importance to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Three stories were used:

- The Migration Story of the Choctaws;
- The Birth of the Choctaws; and
- Tachi Isht Annopa (from the *Shokka Annopa* Storybook).

The SPES students and Staff enjoyed the presentation.

NANIH WAIYA CELEBRATION

Priscilla, Curtis, Jr. and DeLaura (Choctaw Tribal Language Staff) participated at the 2nd Annual "Regaining and Embracing Our Mother Mound-Nanih Waiya Celebration" on Thursday, August 13, 2009. They recited the Pledge of Allegiance in Choctaw after the presentation of colors. The staff enjoyed being a part of the celebration.

Curtis Willis, Jr., DeLaura Saunders & Priscilla Williams lead the Pledge of Allegiance in Choctaw on Aug. 13 at the Nanih Waiya Cave Site in Winston County.

This is the Pledge of Allegiance in Choctaw that we can all learn to say (printed below).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
(In Choctaw)

Amalika yakni
(Lands of America)

ittabachaffa alhehaya
(United)

Î shâpha *(Flag)*
hicha im áyalhtoka yâ
(the Republic/
appointed officials)

im áyâlhilih
(I am true too/pledge)

Ná miya yakómikâ
ôhikíyah átokô
(because they stand
for these things)

Yakni moyyót
Chihówa înotákah,
(all land/nation
submitted to God)

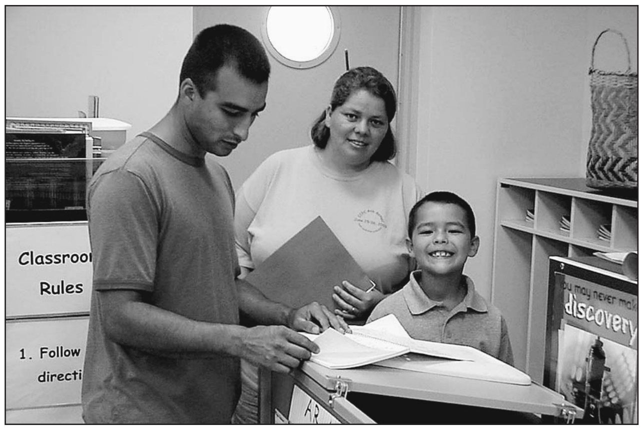
Ittî filammichi iksho,
(indivisible)

Oklah moyyóma kat
(everyone)

yoka kiyoh,
(liberty)

Hicha ná
ittim áyalhpisáchih.
(and makes justice)

Translated 9-26-05, Revised 9-10-08, Tribal Language Program



RWES HOLDS OPEN HOUSE

Red Water Elementary held Open House on August 18 in its beautiful, new school. Parents, guardians & visitors toured the school & met the staff. After viewing the classrooms, a meeting was held in the cafeteria. David Germany discussed last year's test scores; Dianne Johnston presented last year's parents of the year award to Chris and Lacrisha John. Peggy Crow presented information for parents concerning the stimulus (ARRA). Red Water recognized several students for scoring advanced on last year's MCT. Students are Rey Barragan, Jordan Bell, Jayshun Thomas, Sharissa Jefferson, Catina Townsend, Samantha Wilson, Kristen Dixon, & Jeramiah Lewis. In addition, three students were recognized for significantly improving their test scores - Steven Gibson, Jody Blankenship & Richanna Sockey.

OPEN HOUSE AT SPES

Standing Pine Elementary School opened its doors for their annual Open House on August 17, 2009. Attendance was great, food was delicious and the following students were honored for Terra Nova and MCT2 scores.

Students with a 90 or above percentile in Reading were, from left, Shemah Crosby, Kelsey Tangle, Loriganon Willis, & Sydni Tangle.

Above, *Students with a 90 or above percentile in Math were, from left, Enrique Arreola, Shemah Crosby, Kelsey Tangle, Graviel Velasco, & Loriganon Willis.*

Right, *Honored for MCT2 Advanced Math were, from left, Jaydre Bell & Jayasri Mitch.*

SPES students learn more about mound

In recognition of American Indian Native Culture, Jay Wesley and Patty Billie from Choctaw Language Program presented Standing Pine Elementary School students in grades Pre-K thru 6th with information about the Nanih Waiya Mound.

News from the Starbase Atlantis Program

Jenia Gill's 5th grade class from Red Water Elementary toured NAS Meridian in August.

Tour guide Mike loaned Starbase fifth grader "Dr. Seuss" his "cover". Student pilot tour guides continue to be wonderful role models for students.

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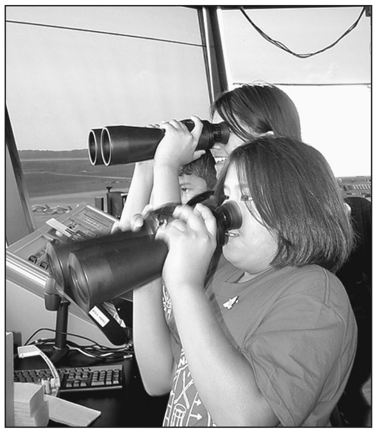

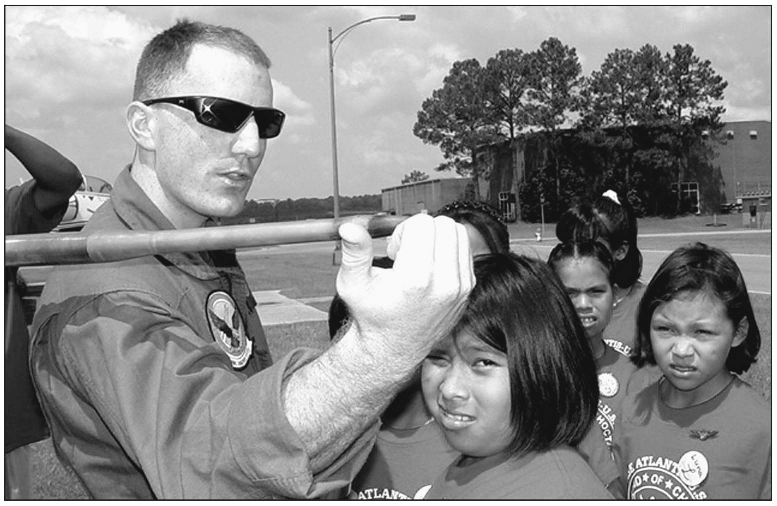

ABOVE, *Starbase fifth graders from Red Water Elementary School enjoyed a bird's eye view from the Air Ops Tower in August.* **RIGHT**, *Taking the time, that's what makes a difference. At the Naval Air Station in Meridian recently, these fifth grade students toured the flight line with their tour guide, Mike.*

LEFT, *These young, beautifully dressed dancers stopped off at the Starbase Educational booth just before performing at the Choctaw Indian Fair recently. They were experimenting how air, like water, takes up space.* **RIGHT**, *Children of all ages enjoyed stopping by the Starbase booth at the Fair in July. Starbase is an outreach program designed to inspire children in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math.*

Fall Fun Day

for
Special Needs Kids
in Neshoba County

October 22nd • 9 a.m. - 12 Noon
Neshoba County Coliseum

• lunch will be served •

If you would consider being a donor or helping with an activity booth, please contact Mike Reed at 601/656.4602

SPONSORS:
Neshoba County, Philadelphia, & Choctaw Disability Children's Foundation
MSU Extension Service & 4-H
Special Education Departments
(Choctaw Central, Neshoba Central & Philadelphia)

4-H...The Power of YOUth

submitted by Ethel Thomas

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' 4-H Youth Development Program started recruiting new members for the new 4-H calendar year in September. Enrollment forms are available at the MBCI 4-H Office, located at the Natural Resource & Rural Development Building on Blackjack Road in the Pearl River Community.

4-H, a nonformal educational program of the Mississippi State University Extension Service & MBCI 4-H Youth Development Program, is dedicated to the development of boys & girls ages 8-18 through learn-by-doing projects & activities. The more active you are, the more you will learn.

Working through projects enables young people to:

-Learn facts & skills useful in everyday life;

-Supplement skills learned in school;

-Learn desirable personal standards for conduct, work, & health;

-Learn to work & play with others;

-Learn to be good citizens;

-Learn to be leaders;

........see 4-H CLUB, pg. 12

Deasons members of Sigma Alpha Lambda

From left, Geraldine Billy Deason & Tommy G. Deason of Carthage, Miss.

Sigma Alpha Lambda is proud to announce that Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' member Geraldine Billy Deason and her husband, Tommy G. Deason, both of Carthage, Miss., have recently become recognized as members of Sigma Alpha Lambda, a National Leadership and Honors Organization at Mississippi State University in Starkville.

Sigma Alpha Lambda is a national leadership and honors organization dedicated to promoting and rewarding academic achievement and providing members with opportunities for community service, personal development, and lifelong professional fulfillment.

Congratulations to Geraldine and Tommy Deason.

FUNDING .... continued from page seven

the productivity and competitiveness of the Tribe.

The Choctaw Department of Employment and Training has a mission to assist in the development of the talent of the Tribal members which will enable them to find productive employment on the reservation or in nearby off-reservation settings. It is the responsibility of the Department of Employment and Training to monitor the local job market and to counsel customers about the availability of jobs.

The Choctaw Department of Employment and Training shares the vision that each Tribal member should have the opportunity for employment in a job commensurate with his/her skills, interest and abilities.

In 2002, the Choctaw Department of Employment and Training was awarded the Indian and Native American Workforce Investment Act Outstanding Performance Award, presented by the U.S. Department of Labor at the National grantee conference.

For more information on program services, call 601-650-7386.

Halloween Safety Tips for Trick or Treating

Choctaw Children's Advocacy Center
A SAFE PLACE FOR CHOCTAW CHILDREN

Kids look forward to Halloween because of the dress-up and cool costumes, but they mostly like it for the candy and treats! Who doesn't?

Watch the candy intake when they get home. Too much can lead to stomach aches and indigestion. That includes mom and dad as well!

Let your child have some say in their costume, within reason of course. Britney or Christina may be your six year old daughter's favorite singer, but don't send her out dressed like them! It's never too early to teach them some responsibility and common sense.

Make your child's Halloween a memorable holiday and they'll have good memories that last a lifetime!

Trick or treating should be one of the great adventures of Halloween for kids! They can get dressed in scary costumes and go door to door, begging "Tricks or Treats!" from neighbors or at the local mall.

Lots of towns have a Harvest Festival so kids can Trick-or-Treat safely. But going door to door is the stuff of childhood memories! It should be a fun time, without trouble and pain, so following some easy tips can keep your child safe every Halloween.

trick or treat

- Children should go out during daylight hours only unless accompanied by a responsible adult.

..........continued next page

4-H CLUB .... continued from page eleven

-Make new acquaintances & friends;

-Earn & save money for the future;

-Receive recognition for work well done;

-Learn more about educational & career opportunities.

Recognition & Awards are used as incentives to encourage club members to do their best. Opportunities for recognition & awards are numerous & help fulfill the member's need to be noticed, to be important, to achieve, & to be praised. These opportunities may come through county, district, state, & national activities. Awards may be:

-Certificates for completing projects;

-Medals for outstanding project work;

-Ribbons for exhibits;

-Recognition through pictures & community news article;

-Cash and/or gifts;

-Educational field trips;

-Scholarships.

As a parent, you play a big part in how "proud" your 4-H'er can be. You are needed to:

-Help select a project or projects;

-Help obtain the necessary material for project work;

-Help with the project plans & processes, using project manual as a guide;

-Encourage your child to complete the project once started;

-Encourage attendance & participation in local club meetings;

-Encourage participation in variety of county or state activities, such as visual presentations, judging, exhibits, & fairs;

-Provide transportation to 4-H activities;

-Show approval of 4-H accomplishments - no matter how small;

-Share your knowledge, special skills & hobbies;

-Try to understand the 4-H program a bit better each month, by reading about 4-H & attending 4-H activities.

If you help...

-Your son and/or daughter can have rich experiences in 4-H;

-You can help your child receive many wonderful opportunities in 4-H.

-Your child needs your help to become a proud 4-H'er.

If you should have any questions about 4-H club and/or enrollment forms please call: Ethel Thomas or Buffy Dixon, 4-H/Home Extension Assistants, or Virginia Willis, 4-H/Home Extension Coordinator, at 601-656-2070.

4-H Pledge

18 USC 707

I Pledge my ***Head*** to clearer thinking,
My ***Heart*** to greater loyalty
My ***Hands*** to larger service,
My ***Health*** to better living
for My Club, My Community,
My Country, and My World.

CELEBRATION OF A NEW BEGINNING

Saturday, September 26, 2009

The University of Southern Mississippi is pleased to announce our new Center for American Indian Research and Studies and our anticipated Minor in American Indian Studies.

Please come join us for this special announcement.

1 p.m. – Official announcement of the Center by Provost Robert Lyman and Tribal Dignitaries, followed by a blessing of the Medicine Wheel Garden. Social Dancing, Stickball demonstrations and a pot-luck supper of traditional native foods will follow.

Location:
Medicine
Wheel
Garden
behind
International
Building

For further
information,
contact:
Tammy Greer
(*tammy.greer@
usm.edu*,
601-266-6336)

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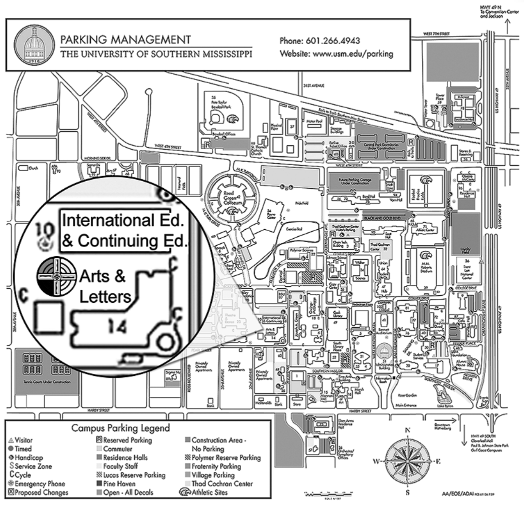
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Lucas Reserve Parking
Pine Haven
Open - All Decals
Construction Area - No Parking
Polymer Reserve Parking
Fraternity Parking
Village Parking
Thad Cochran Center
Athletic Sites
N
S
E
W
AA/EOE/ADAI

- Plan a safe route so parents know where their older kids will be at all times. Set a time for their return home. Make sure that your child is old enough and responsible enough to go out by themselves.
- Let your children know not to cut through back alleys and fields. Make sure they know to stay in populated places and don't go off the beaten track. Stay in well lighted areas.
- Stop only at familiar houses in your own neighborhood unless they are accompanied by an adult.
- Small children should never be allowed to go out alone on Halloween. Make sure an older sibling or adult is with them.
- Instruct your children not to eat any treats until they bring them home to be examined by you.
- Instruct your child to never go into the home of a stranger or get into their car.
- Make sure your child carries a flashlight, glow stick or has reflective tape on their costume to make them more visible to cars.

In observance of
NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR HOMICIDE VICTIMS
A luncheon for family members
who have lost loved ones
to homicide will be held
Thursday, September 24, 2009,
12:00 P.M.
Pearl River Community
Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall

If you have lost a loved one
to homicide & would
like to attend, please contact
Family Violence & Victims Services
601-650-1774

NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE & STICKBALL SKILLS COMPETITION

Rescheduled to
Saturday, September 26, 2009
Dogwoods Subdivision
Pearl River Community

Registration for skills competition, 9:00 a.m.
Competition begins 10:00 a.m.

For more information,
contact Barry Ben at 601-416-4621

Statewide sign-up for new Conservation Stewardship Program started

JACKSON, Miss. - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) began continuous sign-up for the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) on Aug. 10 in Mississippi. The first cutoff for ranking purposes is scheduled for Sept. 30, State Conservationist Dr. Homer Wilkes announced.

"The Conservation Stewardship Program changed dramatically in the 2008 Farm Bill," said Wilkes. "NRCS took the time to develop a program that would appeal to our diverse customers and offer them an equal chance to participate. We hope that agricultural and forestry producers in Mississippi take full advantage of the benefits this newly revised program offers."

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) authorized the Conservation Stewardship Program. Congress renamed and revamped the former Conservation Security Program completely to improve its availability and appeal to agricultural and forestry producers. The Conservation Stewardship Program will be offered in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Pacific and Caribbean areas through continuous sign-ups with announced cut-off application dates for ranking periods. The maximum annual enrollment is capped at nearly 12.8 million acres nationwide.

NRCS administers CSP, a voluntary conservation program designed to encourage agricultural and forestry producers to adopt additional conservation practices and improve, maintain and manage existing ones.

To apply for the newly revamped CSP, individual producers, legal entities and Indian tribes will be encouraged to use a self-screening checklist first to determine whether the new program is suitable for them or their operation. The checklist is available on NRCS Web sites and at NRCS field offices.

After the self-screening, the producer's current and proposed conservation activities are entered in the conservation measurement tool (CMT). This tool estimates the level of environmental performance to be achieved by a producer implementing and maintaining conservation activities. The conservation performance estimated by the CMT will be used to rank applications. NRCS field staff will conduct on-site field verifications of pre-approved applicants' information provided for the CMT.

For more information, call Tim Oakes, local NRCS Office, at 601-506-1754 or 601-656-9679. For further information about the new CSP, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp/. For more information about conservation programs in Mississippi, please visit www.nrcs.usda.gov.

LUNCH & LEARN

The Tribe's "Lunch & Learn" Program will take place on Tuesday, September 29 shortly after the noon hour in the Entertainment Trailer next to the Pearl River Amphitheater. This program is designed to educate you on your health and financial well being in these hard economic times. You'll learn how to save money and stay healthy. This program is absolutely FREE! So bring your LUNCH & LEARN.

TOPIC: Supplementing your food budget by gardening

For more information, contact Rita Jones at 601-650-7449,
Darlene Willis at 601-656-2211 or Jim McAdory at 601-656-2070.

YOUTH BASKETBALL NOTICE

If you are thinking about starting a youth basketball team for the 2009-10 basketball leagues, the roster will be coming out around Oct. 1, 2009. Age groups will be 5-7, 8-10, 11-13, & 14-17. Cut-off date for the ages is Aug. 1, 2009.

1. Limit for the team roster is 12.
2. Teams must have jerseys before the first scheduled game.
3. League will start in November (after Veteran's Day Pow-Wow).

Area athletes recognized by State Games of Mississippi

Allen Hardy, Chloe Pinter, both of Philadelphia, & Zachary Farmer of Conehetta were chosen as the 2009 State Games of Mississippi AT&T Athletes of the Year for their individual sports. The athletes were among those recognized at the 2009 AT&T Athlete of the Year banquet held Aug. 15 in Meridian.

Named overall Male & Female Athletes of the Year were Kayla Sticker of Hattiesburg & Joe Morrow of Amory.

Hardy was named Masters Swimming Athlete of the Year. He took five age group gold medals at the 2009 State Games, 4 relay gold medals and set three state records in his age group. Hardy, a former triathlete, focuses on swimming after breaking his hip in a bike wreck in 2005. He has started a Masters Swim program in the community.

Female Athlete of the Year for Archery was 10-year old Pinter. She won two gold medals at the 2009 State Games, her second tournament ever. She had never shot at the 40 & 50-meter distances & awed her more experienced competitors with her skill.

Ten-year old Farmer was recognized as Male Athlete of the Year for Stickball. Farmer is a member of the gold medal winning 9-12 year old Unified Stickball team for 2008 & 2009. This year, Farmer scored seven total points in the tournament to help his team win the gold.

The State Games of Mississippi honored all 36 AT&T Athletes of the Year at a reception sponsored by AT&T and hosted by Quality Inn & Outback Steakhouse in Meridian.

From left are Chloe Pinter of Philadelphia, Zachary Farmer of Conehatta and Allen Hardy of Philadelphia. Presenting their plaques was C.D. Smith, Regional Manager of AT&T Mississippi.

Other nominees for Athlete of the Year included Nathan Hathorn of Laurel for Archery; Greg Vaughn of Meridian & Anna Hailey of Macon for Barrel Racing; Curtis Bailey of Jackson for Adult Basketball; Stephen C. Joe of Ridgeland for All-Star Baseball; Andrew Gunn of Clinton for High School Team Baseball; Demarcus Slater of Waynesboro & Tramekia Walker of Newton for High School Basketball; Joe Hasson & Annie Cherry of Meridian for Bowling;

Melissa Morrison of Natchez for Canoe/Kayak; Chad Moore & Kayla Stricker of Hattiesburg for Cross Country; Brentt Thompson of Collinsville for Cycling; Andrea Benton of Florence for Dressage; Joe Brinson of Okolona & Sonia Fogal of Jackson for Fencing; Chad Bounds of Meridian & Hope Biggs of Clinton for Junior Golf; Tristan Caldwell & Gabrielle Caldwell of Brandon for Martial Arts;

Addy Panzram of Hattiesburg for Masters Swimming; Joe Morrow of Amory & Kayla Stricker of Hattiesburg for Powerlifting; Chad Moore & Kayla Stricker of Hattiesburg for 5K Road Race; Logan Little of Tupelo & Makenzie Cobb of Meridian for Youth Soccer; Nancy Williams of Toomsuba for Softball; Coyt Majure & Melissa Hudson of Meridian for Junior Tennis; & Scott Gray & Dawn Gray of Meridian for Volleyball.

The State Games of Mississippi is a statewide amateur sportsfest patterned after the Olympics for athletes of all ages & abilities. Mississippi's Olympic-style sporting festival is part of the National Congress of State Games movement, & works closely with the U.S. Olympic Committee.

Athletes compete in approximately 30 sporting events throughout the month of June. The State Games keeps its entry fees low primarily through the generous donations of sponsors.

For more information on the Games, call 1-800-482-0205, or visit the State Games of Mississippi website at www.stategamesofms.org.

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Woods wins second annual NB3 Foundation Challenge

Native American Youth True Winners

VERONA, N.Y. - Tiger Woods, the world's No. 1 golfer, outshot an all-world foursome that included Camilo Villegas, Mike Weir & Notah Begay III to win the second annual Notah Begay III (NB3) Foundation Challenge. Taking nine skins & $230,000 during the 18 holes played on Monday (Aug. 24), Woods successfully outplayed both the field & the challenging Atunyote Golf Club course at Turning Stone Resort & Casino in Verona, N.Y.

The tournament raised at least $750,000 for the Notah Begay III Foundation.

"Today the whole thing was about bringing awareness to what Notah is trying to do," said Woods. "It's great to see what he's doing. He's put his heart, soul & passion into it."

Featuring some of the world's top golfers, this year's event created expectations of an exciting day of golf. The players involved did not disappoint, thrilling the crowd of 3,000 with thunderous drives & dazzling short iron play.

Early on, it was tournament host Begay III who drew some of the loudest cheers with great chips on both the first & third hole. It was near the middle of the round, when the group halved five consecutive holes starting with the ninth, that the intensity of play began to pick up.

A great second shot from 75 yards out & a 10-foot birdie putt by Villegas broke the game open, giving him six skins & $180,000 with a single shot on the 15th.

Now trailing, Woods birdied three consecutive holes following Villegas' move to the top, reclaiming the lead with only the daunting 18th left to play. With Villegas & Woods both playing to seal up the victory, it was fitting that Begay III played a great chip from the fringe & followed with a birdie putt to take the final skin & $70,000.

While Woods took home the most skins, the true winners of the NB3 Foundation Challenge are the Native American communities that benefit from the Foundation's efforts to improve the health & wellness of youth on Indian reservations nationwide.

Funds raised during the NB3 Foundation Challenge are used to develop and promote sustainable and innovative sports and wellness programs to fight the disproportionate incidence of obesity and diabetes among Native American youth.

To date, the Foundation has implemented year-round soccer & golf programs engaging hundreds of Native American youth in New Mexico alone.

"It's time we do more to stop the obesity & diabetes epidemic among Native American youth," said Begay III. "Through the Challenge, we have a unique opportunity to shine a national spotlight on this issue. Our goal is to create a national youth health & wellness movement among tribal nations, & I am excited about the momentum for change I have seen today."

Pictured above, from left, are Camilo Villegas, Mike Weir, Tiger Woods, Bill Kratzert, & Notah Begay III. (Submitted photo)

The NB3 Foundation Challenge is made possible by a collaboration between the Oneida Indian Nation & the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians, two tribal nations donating time & resources to create a more promising future for Native American youth.

"This tournament is a demonstration of the commitment that Indian tribal nations have made to elevate health and wellness in their communities across this nation," said Chairman James Ramos, San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians. "Our efforts today will have a positive impact on the health & well being of future generations of Native people & our communities."

The Notah Begay III Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization started in 2005. Begay III is a 4-time PGA TOUR winner & Stanford University graduate.

The mission of the Foundation is to reduce the incidence of obesity & diabetes & advance the lives of Native American youth through sports & wellness programming by supporting the development of sustainable & innovative programs designed by Native Americans for Native American youth to promote physical fitness, wellness & leadership development.

For more information on Notah Begay III & the Foundation, visit www.notah.com.

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In Memory

DENNIS JIM

Funeral services for Dennis Jim, 67, were held Wednesday, August 26, 2009, from the Pearl River Facility Building in Choctaw. The Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

Burial was in the Pearl River Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Jim passed away Aug. 22 at the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a longtime Tribal Maintenance employee.

His hobbies included fishing, watching his sons play stickball, singing & attending pow wows with his drum group, War Eagles, & traveling to Ripley & Memphis, Tenn., to visit friends.

He was preceded in death by parents, McKinley “Doc” Jim & Manzie Sam Jim; sons, Harold Jim & Derrick Mingo; a daughter, Denise Jim; & grandsons, Laythen Jim & Zayton R. Stokes.

Survivors include his daughters, Angie Jim, Anita McCombs, Damita Jim, all of Philadelphia; sons, Mark Jim of Jackson, Jamie Jim, Darwin Jim, Justin Jim, Ryan Jim, Dennis Jim Jr., all of Philadelphia; brothers, Marvel Jim & Nickey Jim; a host of grandchildren; relatives & friends.

MYRA LEWIS STOLIBY

Funeral services for Myra Lewis Stoliby, 44, were held Saturday, August 29, 2009, from Hopewell Baptist Church in Standing Pine. The Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the Standing Pine Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Stoliby passed away Aug. 26 in the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She was a member of Pine Bluff Baptist Church.

She was employed as a housekeeper at the Pearl River Resort. She enjoyed attending pow wows, socializing, cooking, playing softball, washers & stickball.

She was preceded in death by her father, Prentis Lewis; brothers, Dickey Lewis, Danny Lee Lewis & James Lewis, Sr.; an aunt & two uncles.

Survivors include her common law husband, Reese Jefferson of Carthage; mother, Lula Lewis of Carthage; daughters, Angel Stoliby of Winter Garden, Fla., Alyssa Gibson of Philadelphia, Precious Farve of Walnut Grove, Candace Jefferson, Sharecka Jefferson, both of Carthage; sons, Mercutio Stoliby of Conehatta, Michael Shumake, Jamieson Gibson, both of Philadelphia, & Alexander Farve of Walnut Grove; sisters, Betty Jane Lewis & Linda Champion, both of Carthage; brothers, Amon Lewis of Walnut Grove & Pete Lewis of Carthage; three aunts; an uncle; six grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

GINA DEAN NENE

Funeral services for Gina Dean Nene, 50, were held Friday, September 4, 2009, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. The Rev. John Farve & the Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr., officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements..

Mrs. Nene, of Dallas, Texas, passed away Aug. 30 in Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas.

She was Baptist by faith. She had worked at Green Acres & American Greetings. She enjoyed being with her family & friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Nicolas Nene, Sr.; parents, Bob & Luceline Bell; sisters, Linda Christensen & Evelyn Jefferson; brother, Alex Bell; & three grandchildren.

Survivors include daughters, Alisia Nene, Mercedes Nene, both of Philadelphia; sons, Shane Bell, Sr., Nicolas Nene, Jr., Shaukota Gibson & Rafael Gibson, all of Philadelphia; sisters, Iva Lou Steve, Anita Cotton & Verna Bell, all of Philadelphia; brothers, Robert Bell of Philadelphia, Donald Cotton & Tommy Cotton, Jr., both of Philadelphia; three aunts; an uncle; nine grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

GLENN BELL

Funeral services for Glenn Bell, 59, were held Saturday, September 5, 2009, from the Nanih Waiya Indian Mennonite Church. The Rev. Glenn Myers & the Rev. Dewayne Reinhardt officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Bell passed away Sept. 2 in the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian

He was Mennonite by faith.

He graduated from Choctaw Central High School in 1971. He graduated

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from East Central Community College with an AA degree in 1991. He attended Mississippi State University in Starkville where he majored in Elementary Education.

He was as a carpenter with Chahta Enterprise, instructional aide at Choctaw Central Elementary, then Recreation Dept. aide. In 1994, he was employed at Pearl River Resort as a Security Greeter.

He enjoyed fishing, hunting, running, & playing sports. He was a 1st degree brown belt in Karate. He was a huge fan of Elvis Presley & OU Sooners football.

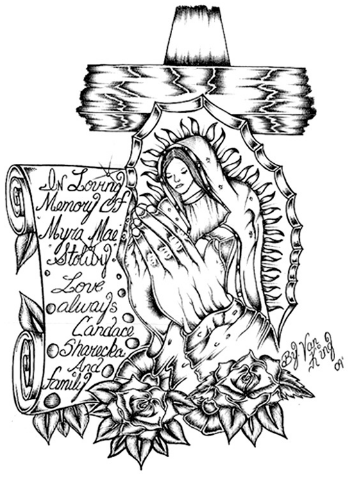
He was preceded in death by grandparents, Anderson & Effie Willis Tubby; parents, Homer & Cornelia Tubby Bell; & sisters, Betty Clemmons, Bernice Bell & Gladys Wallace.

He is survived by his daughter, Monica DeeAnn Bell; sons, Jason G. Bell, Sr., Dwight Cody Bell & Joe Montana Bell, Sr.; sister, Mary Jane Dixon; brothers, James Homer Bell, Sr. & Paul Bell, Sr.; great aunts, Betty Jean Gibson & Delores Bell, 15 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren, all of Philadelphia; & a host of relatives & friends.

In Loving Memory

Myra Mae Lewis Stoliby

October 19, 1964 - August 26, 2009



MARGIA NELL HOMER

Funeral services for Margia Nell Homer, 64, were held Monday, September 7, 2009, from the Hopewell Baptist Church in Standing Pine. The Rev. Leonard Ben officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Homer passed away Sept. 5 in the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She loved to cook, knit, sew, fish, grow plants & flowers, & tend to her cats.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Greer & Leona Sam Billy; brothers, Richard Billy & Laverne Billy; & sisters, Nellie Ruth Billy, Velma Jean Billy & Louise Billy Jim Lopez.

Survivors include sisters, Maude Durant of Ft. Towson, Virginia James of Albuquerque, NM, Marilyn King of Walnut Grove, & Sarah Cantu of Savannah, GA; brothers, Adam Billy of Choctaw & Daniel Billy of Tulsa, Okla.; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

SFC (E-7) JESSE ANDREW ISAAC

March 8, 1932 - August 20, 2009

Jesse Andrew Isaac, 77, of Columbus, GA, passed away Thursday, August 20, 2009, at home under the care of his family & Vista Care Hospice.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, Aug. 29, in Philadelphia, Miss. His final resting place was at Parkhill Cemetery, Columbus, GA.

Mr. Isaac was born March 8, 1932, in Philadelphia to the late Byrd & Pauline Isaac. He retired from the U.S. Army in 1971 after 20 years of service. He served in both the Korean & Vietnam Conflicts, receiving several medals including the Bronze Star, the Distinguished Service Cross & Purple Heart for his actions.

Mr. Isaac is preceded in death by brothers, Edwin Isaac, Edward Isaac, Carlstine Isaac, Sr., Herbert Hall; & sisters, Berniece Garcia, Julia Willis & Rella Billy.

He is survived by his daughters, Angelica R. Isaac & Georgia A. Isaac, a son, Xavier L. Isaac; grandchildren, Cecilia G. Isaac, Xavier M. Isaac & Xander J. Isaac, sisters, Waudine Brown, Virgie Solomon, Katherine McMillan, Wilma Lewis, & Lucy McLemore; brothers, Calvin Isaac & Brant Isaac; one aunt, Mandy Isaac; several nieces, nephews, other family members, & friends.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you: The loss of our father, grandfather, brother, uncle, & cousin was difficult to endure; but you were there giving us strength with your tender touch of comforting words & heart felt support. Your kindess & genuine love was felt through inspirational cards, phone calls, prayers, preparation of food, lodging, travel assistance, & time you spent with us. You touched our hearts in a way that can't be described. As we say thank you, May God bless you to: Family & Friends; Mi̱ko Beasley Denson & staff; All churches; Vista Care Hospice, Columbus, GA; Striffler-Hamby Mortuary Columbus, GA; Synovus Financial Friends; Mr. Mike White & Staff; Mr. John Ferguson & Rifle Team; Ms. Louisa Bell & Alex Bell (trumpet); Choctaw Community News; & Choctaw Video Productions.

-The Family of SFC (E-7) Jesse Andrew Isaac

IN MEMORY OF
JAYSAUN ELLIOTT STEVE

July 13, 2009 - August 8, 2009

The day you left - Aug. 8, 2009 - is the day I will never forget. The call I got from your mother, Lillie, saying, "Gil, I'm scared, our baby is gone." I will never forget those words. That day became the darkest day of my life. My heart filled with emotional pain, it hurt. My eyes burned with tears. I struggle to keep them open. I didn't know what to do or what to think. I was scared too.

I started to blame God for cutting your life short & taking you back, but it was His plan that you go & be with Him & His angels. For everything, there is a time & season & it was your time, at 26 days old. You had to leave so soon, but Jesus is coming & I will see you sooner than I can think. Until, I am left with memories of you spending time with your mother.

She thought you were trying to grow up too fast. For a little guy, she talked about how you were tossing & turning already. How you would just look around, trying to see who or what was around you. How you look so much like me when you get mad. She even thought you said your first words. She talked so much about you. She misses you a lot, we both do. I just wish I was there to see all that you did.

Now, I'm only left with these memories of you that was told to me & I will cherish them in my heart forever. I'm sorry for everything I've become or who I was before, but I ask you for forgiveness & that you watch & bless me & your mother with your spirit as you become our guardian angel.

I would give up everything to have you come back so I can be with you. To hug & hold you. To hear your cries & laughter. I miss you, my friend, my buddy, MY BABY.

Not a day goes by that I think of you & I begin to cry until I can't cry anymore. Only if I did things differently the first time, you probably would still be here. I love you & I miss you very much. You will always remain in my heart, forever & ever & ever. May God bless you & rest in peace, as your mom would call you, My Undertaker, my son.

- From Daddy,
Rian K. Willis, "Gil"

We would like acknowledge a very much heartfelt "thank you" to those who assisted us in our time of grief & sorrow - Christine Phillips for all the cooking, Mark Jefferson for keeping the fire going, Vera Jefferson, Conehatta Councilman Troy Chickaway, Tribal Maintenance, Mi̱ko Denson & Tribal Administration, John E. Stephens Funeral Home, staff at Conehatta Facility Building, Choctaw Bible Translation staff Pam Smith & Laura C., Pastor Thomas Ben Jr., the church groups for the songs, prayer & comforting words, to those who came & sat with us, stood by us & supported us. A great "thank you" to all of you. May God Bless each & everyone of you.

- Rian Willis & Lillie Steve

13th Annual Diabetes Awareness Walk/Run

2 Mile Walk/Run

Saturday, October 3, 2009

Starting Point at Choctaw Central High School Entrance

Registration begins at 7 a.m.
Race at 8 a.m. (Rain or Shine)
Registration Fee: $3

Participants must complete a registration form before entering the race. Participants under 18 years of age must have a parent or legal guardian's signature on the registration form. Forms are available at the Diabetes Management Center and at the Special Diabetes Program trailer at the Choctaw Health Center Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Immediately after the race, awards will be presented to winners in designated age division.

For more information, contact the
CHC Diabetes Management Center
at 601-389-6354 or the
Special Diabetes Program at 601-389-6359.

Larney completes basic training

Airman Dante K. Larney graduated from Basic Military Training on June 26, 2009, at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX. He was awarded as an Honor Graduate in recognition of outstanding performance in Basic Military Training. This award is given to those Airmen who have consistently achieved excellence in Dorm and Drill Performance, Physical training and War Skills and Military Studies. He is presently stationed at Sherman Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, TX.

Dante is the son of Kimberly A. Larney of Shawnee, Okla., and Richard B. Larney, Jr., of Holdenville, Okla. His late paternal grandparents are Richard B. Larney, Sr. and Beulah White Hawk Larney and his late maternal grandmother is Gloria Charlie.

Airman Dante K. Larney

Dante is a 2006 graduate of Moss High School.

We would like to congratulate our beloved nephew Dante' Larney, son of Kimberly Charlie Larney and Richard Larney, Jr., for completing the basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX. We are very proud of you, Dante'! Love always, from your family:

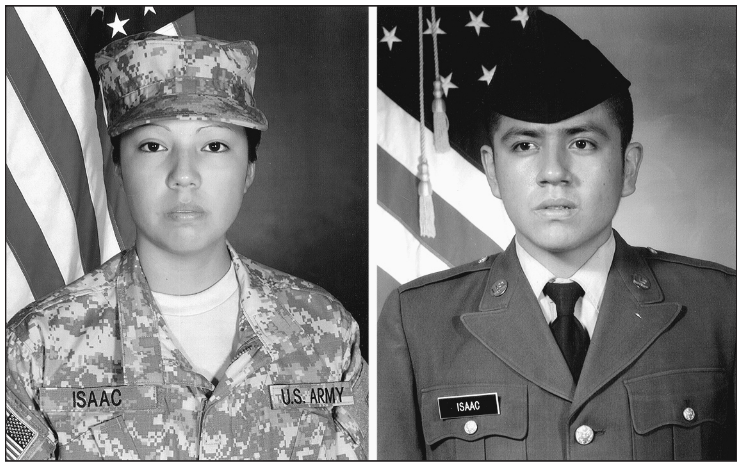
Lisa Charlie & Family
Coburn Charlie, Jr. & Family
Tressie Charlie & Family
John Charlie
Darren Charlie

6TH ANNUAL FAMILY REUNION
STEVEN & LILLY (WILLIS) ISAAC
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2009

The 6th Annual Family Reunion will be held on Sat., Oct. 10, 2009, at the Pearl River (Community) Pavilion in Choctaw from 10:00 a.m. until. Our branch of the family tree is looking bigger & better. Orders for T-Shirts is due & payable by Sept. 30 at $10 each. Make plans to join us & notify family members out of state to come join us.

CONTACT PERSONS:
Doris Billy @ 601-267-9526 (home) or 601-389-6333
Thelma Barnes at 601-650-0021
Maggeline Truss at 601-781-7700
Robert Paul Tubby or Barry Ben

BRING CHAIRS & A COVERED DISH



Isaac completes basic training

Congratulations to Shamilia Sarene Isaac, left, for completing her Basic Combat Training at Ft. Jackson, SC on Aug. 14, 2009. Just like DADDY did 20 years ago in MO. Have fun in your new career & all your endeavors to come. From Daddy, Cynthia, Mamo, the boys Neh & Cho Cho, & Uncle Trav.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Belated Birthday wish to Grandma Janis on Sept. 12... Happy Birthday to Kassie on Oct. 6, and Natalie & Melody on Oct. 17!

Happy Belated Birthday to Gramma Ann Tubby on Aug. 19. With love, Sean & Reese... Welcome to the family, BAM! - Brodie Anthony McMillan. Proud parents are Devin & Kimberly McMillan. Brodie was born Aug. 18, 2009. From your auntie, Reese & the rest of the family.

Happy Birthday to Sharon "Sherri" Williams on Oct. 2, 2009, from Community Health.

Happy Birthday to Yunnell Willis on Oct. 14, 2009, from 'Guess Who'!

Happy Birthday to Tessa Sanders on Oct. 19, 2009, from everyone who loves you!

Happy 18th Birthday to our best friends, Amber & Amelia Ben, on Oct. 9! From Mahlih Vaughn, Brandi Farve & Jazz Ben.

Happy Birthday! to Brannon Jayce Farmer on Oct. 20. We wish you lots & lots of happiness. We love you very much. You are special & you'll soon be all grown up. So dream big dreams & work hard to make them come true. We know you can do it. We have faith in you. Just remember if you ever need us, call & we'll be there, no matter where you are. You'll still be in our hearts. From all of us, Papaw, Steph, Justin, & Mina. Miss you & Happy Birthday, from Sly, Nina & baby Kaden in Fla.

We wish a Happy Birthday to Martin Willis on Oct. 1, Memorie Dawn Willis on Oct. 9, Iron Eyes Cody York, Jr., on Oct. 13, & Ian York on Oct. 29. Have a good day! We love you all. From Stephanie, Mina, Justin, & Henry.

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY!" Jonique B. Hickman. Hope you are

....continued next page

doing alright & staying safe at the Rez. Have been thinking of you as often as you might think. So be good & be nice. See ya around, from someone who cares about you - T.D.S.

Happy Belated Birthday to Tajae Cook, Jermaine Dixon, Martika Lewis, Winnard Lewis, Jr., & Paula Lewis in Sept., from Ronata, Toklow, Diaz, Diajah, & Eric... Happy Birthday to our son, Toklow York, on Oct. 12, from Mom, Dad, Diaz, & Diajah... Happy Birthday to our Uncle Bobo & our Grandma Grace on Oct. 12, from Toklow, Diaz & Diajah.

We wish a belated Happy 6th Birthday to Camri Blayne Bell on Sept. 19, from Mom, Dad, lil sis Chardonnae, Grandma & Papo Jim, & Grandma & Papo Clemons. You are growing up so fast. We all love you!

Happy 11th Birthday to Tehya Matehna King on Aug. 27, Happy 18th Birthday to Ramsey "Boi" King II on Aug. 4. Don't overdo it. Happy Birthday to Kalseia "Kelli" King on Aug. 30. Happy Belated Birthday to my loving mother on Aug. 29, Miss Terrell Ann Thomas. Love you all. From Nani & Keno.

Happy Birthday to Beyonkia R. Willis on Oct. 2, from Dad, Mom, Julisa... & to Tiak on Oct. 2, from Larry & Lisa... Happy Birthday to my uncle Owen Willis on Oct. 10, from your niece Lisa... To Julie Ann & Kyana Lane on Oct. 31, from Larry & Lisa... Happy Belated Birthday to our grandson, Jonas Anthony Hardy, Jr., on Aug. 6 & to Rick Wilson on Aug. 18... Happy Belated Birthday to Anna Marie Hardy on Sept. 16... We love you all, Nana, Rick, Jr. From Dad, Mom.

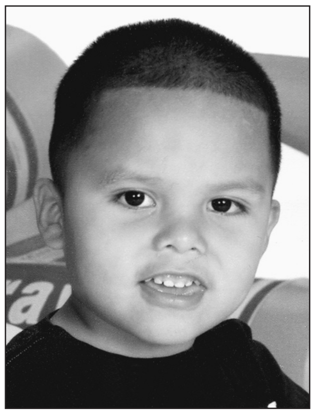
Happy 38th Birthday to Theresa Ann Shoemake, from Chay, Tiffy, Sky, Cheetos, & John Willis. We love you.

Happy Belated Birthday to my Lil Girl Nariah Martin on Sept. 7, from Mom, Chase, Uncle Doug, Curt, Papo Claude, & Mamaw Abbie... Happy Belated Birthday to Nathan Allen on Sept. 3.

Happy Belated Birthday to Deyre on Sept. 7 & also to our baby DeKameron who will be 5 on Oct. 28 & to Ricka who will be 16 on Oct. 5. Love from Daddy Eric, Mom, Draven, & Jr.

Happy 30th Birthday Wishes to Rian K. Willis, a.k.a. "Gil" on Oct. 9. I love you & miss you - Lillie R. Steve... Happy Belated Birthday to Quintin Willis, who turned 5 on Sept. 14, from your Daddy "Gil".

We wish a Happy 24th Birthday to Allison Hickman Joe & a Happy 2nd Birthday to my grandson, Prentiss Anthony Jim. Both will share a birthday on Oct. 23. Love you both always, from your Mother/Grandmother, sister & the boys.



Happy 4th Birthday to Keondrae Anderson on Oct. 19, from Kethan, Mom & Dad.

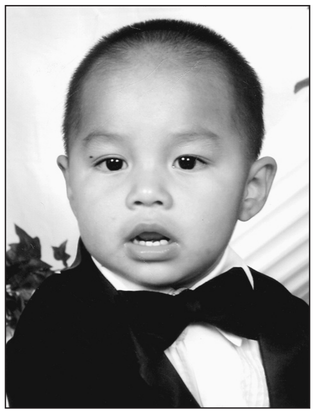
To our sweetie, Nolynn Bell, "Happy Birthday!" on Sept. 14. Big kisses from Papo & Mammo Jackson & Pokni Bell... Nolynn sends birthday wishes to "Randy Watson" on Sept. 13, Auntie Tosh on Sept. 30 & also to Auntie Day on Oct. 10. Happy Birthday Ya'll!... To "Mr. Randy Watson" on Sept. 13, Happy Birthday! From your #1 fans, Bebe Cito, Yaya Duck, Big Baby, BB Osi, Nah Nah, Ano, Tosh-Day, & Squeaks.

The Y.O.P. staff wishes a Big Birthday to Binks Alex on Sept. ?? & Louise Wilson on Sept. ??. "Happy, Happy Birthday!" from Trish, Glenda, Page, & Craig.

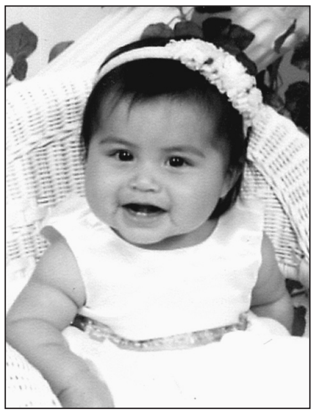
Happy Belated Birthday to my son & daughter in Aug. "Andrick" on Aug. 10 & Glendria on Aug. 19. I wish yall the best & I love you very much... Happy Belated Birthday to my brother, Galen John, on Aug. 18. "Love you bro," from your sis... Happy Belated Birthdays to my children in Sept. - Dallanicka on Sept. 1, Dalladaysia on Sept. 3, Cheriyah on Sept. 8, Chuckie-Boy on Sept. 11, Dallaray on Sept. 20, & Jaylendra on Sept. 22. I love you all very, very much. From your mother, Julie Shoemake... Happy Belated Birthday to Duane & Deanna from Dallas & Julie, Chitto, Dalla, Stick, & Rayne... Happy Birthday in Nov. to two more of my children, Dallatesha on Nov. 7 & to my baby boy Brandon Dixon on Nov. 2. I love you very much, from mom, Julie Shoemake.

Happy Belated Birthday to Shelton Shane Chapman, Jr., on Sept. 5, from your Mom, Shug,

.....................................**see BIRTHDAYS, pg. 20**



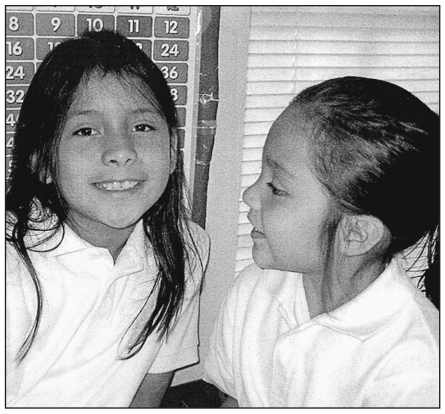
Happy 2nd Birthday to Landon Davis (a.k.a. Baby) on Oct. 3. Hope your day is special. Love, Mommie, Big Brother Kin Kin & the rest of the family.

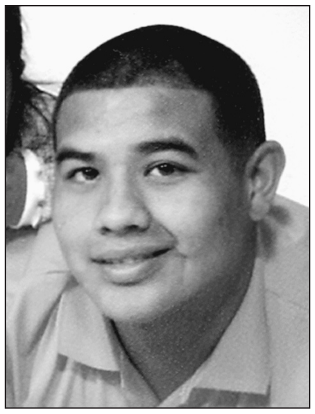


Happy Birthday BeBeChitto

Happy 1st Birthday to Kelli Nicole Williams on Oct. 17. With much love from Mommy, Daddy, JJ, Sista, Oochie, & the rest of the family. Happy Birthday BeBeChitto!

Happy Birthday to my Auntie on Oct. 8, 2009, from Tia, Mom, Dad, & Randi.

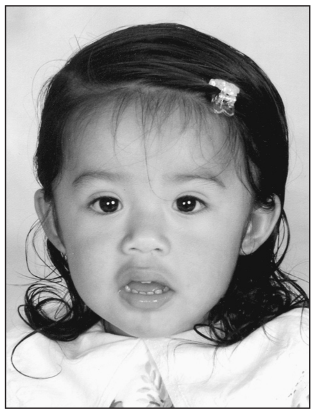




The family of Isaiah Rashad Mingo extends Happy Birthday wishes to him on his birthday. Happy Birthday from all of us and hope that you will enjoy your day. We all love you, from Jaliah & Alexis, Tatum, Kinleigh, Sunni & Errol, Stella & Xavier, Channa, Taylor, Dora & Butch.

Happy Belated Birthday to Bracey Billie on Sept. 12, from your family & friends.

Happy 18th Birthday on Oct. 12 to my beautiful, sophisticated, unique daughter, Mahlih Vaughn. Although you are 18 & an adult, you will always be one of my babies! With all my love, your mother, RaeNell Vaughn.



Happy 2nd Birthday "TINKER BELL!" On Sept. 14

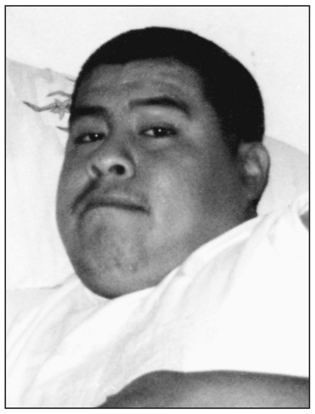
My sweetie, Nolynn... You are growing up to be a big girl & learning new stuff everyday! It's hard keeping up with you as you explore with your wandering eyes & your sticky hands, haha, but it's worth it! Keep learning & keep growing as you turn 2 on the 14th. I love you very much & I love being your mommy, so enjoy your big day! Hugs & Kisses - Momma.

BIRTHDAYS .... continued from page nineteen

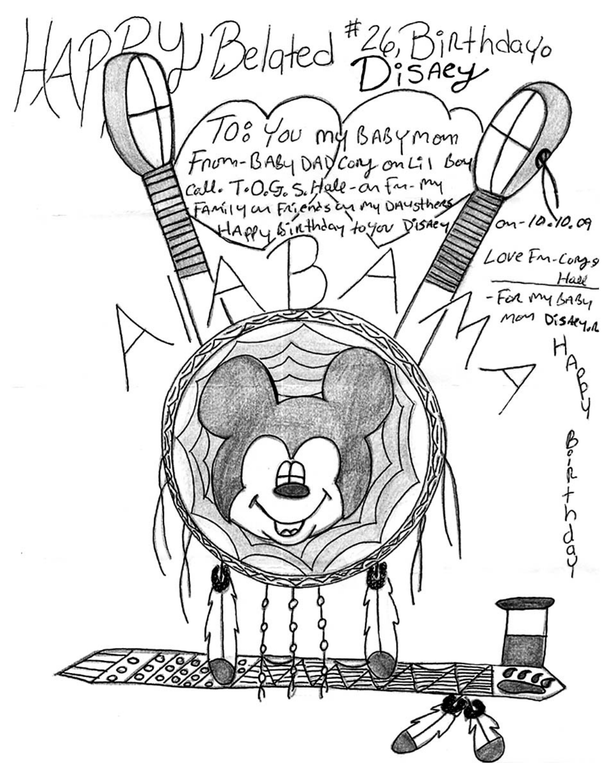
Shunita, Brittany, Shanika, the twins Bryce & Jayce, & all your family from S.P.

I wish a Happy 50th Birthday to my dad, Leonard Ben, on Oct. 24. And this is for you... To my daddy. I sit & look back to how far I can remember. And you are always there next to me. Each & everyday you were helping me grow up & making me be the best that I can be. Your love was forever strong. Your cuddles forever tight. Everyday since I was born your love was always in sight. I will always be your BABY GIRL & you will always be my Dad. I know I will always be the luckiest, to have the best Dad any girl could have had. My Daddy, I love you with all my heart, much more than I ever say. So HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAD! From your bebe chito, Domina Nicole Ben.

Happy Birthday to Chyler Villarreal. She turns 6 on Sept. 29.



To Martin Windall Willis, Jr., whose birthday is on Oct. 30. Once upon a time, many many years ago (& I'm talking a very long time ago), way way in the distant past, so far in the past & so long ago that very few even remember, something happened that changed the world forever. Even though very few remember this event because it was so very, very long ago., I am here to say I have found an ancient document which proves that this event actually did happen (your birth certificate) stating that you are now 30 years old! Wow that is old! HAPPY BIRTHDAY OLD TIMER! From all of us, Stephanie, Mina, Justin, Renee & kids, Tasha & kids, Shauna, Eric & kids. Don't over do it!


HAPPY Belated #26, Birthday Disaey
To: You my BABYmom
From-BABY DAD Cory on Lil Boy
call. T.O.G.S. Hale-an Fm-my
FAMily an Friends an my Daugthers
HAPPY Birthday to you Disaey
on-10.10.09
Love Fm-Cory's Hale
-For my BABY mom Disaey.R
ALABAMA
HAPPY Birthday

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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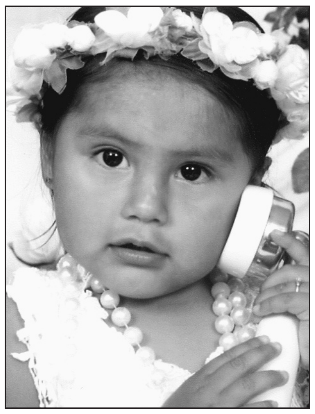
HAPPY 2nd BIRTHDAY

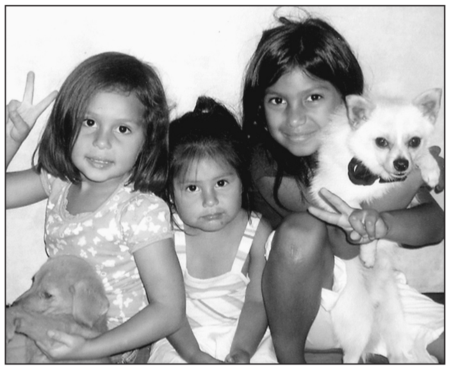


She pulls down everything & keeps you on the toes. She slips out of all hands & makes everyone go. She makes cute faces & puts a smile on every face. She tries every time, yet boosts them with zest. She fusses at times, but blabbers sweet words & makes you forget the rest.

Her smile would make you forget all the pain. Her presence invigorates your every vein. Her cries would steal away your tomorrow. Her laughter would chase all your sorrow. Her charm makes the world go round & round. Her every step is like a jingling sweet sound. She fills the life of all who loves her with her tender smile. Her innocent looks, takes you away a mile. She is full of warmth & radiant shine. Her gentle touch would shed out your whine.

God Almighty was gracious & gifted us an Angel. Filled our hearts with joy, & happiness, most of all on the 11th day of Oct. 2007, a day we would always treasure. Blossomed yet another year. Showers of blessing as you turn 2, our dearest "Baby Girl" Gracie Nevaeh Rayne Williams. We love you very much! From Daddy, Mommy, Ofo, Pokni, Auntie Moe, Illusion, Sierra, the Hickman Family, & the rest of the Williams Family.

TO MY WONDERFUL LITTLE GIRLS!



From the moment I knew I was pregnant I instantly loved you. From the moment I laid eyes on you, I fell completely in love. From the first time I held you & kissed your soft, little cheeks I knew the meaning of love. Since the beginning of you my life has been complete.

You are my joy, my peace, my strength, my courage, my heart & soul, and my life! You are my little bits of heaven on earth!

I thank God continuously for creating such perfect little angels! I am blessed beyond words to have you three in my life!

Happy Birthday to my three princesses - Illusion, 7 (Sept. 18); Sierra, 5 (Oct. 12); & Gracie, 2 (Oct. 11). You girls are the reason I smile & laugh. I love you! Love, Momma... Happy Birthday Wishes from Mimi, Rachel, Te-Te, Zachary, Iyanna, Azaryia, Troy, Bolton (our little dog), & lots of other family & friends! We all love you three very much!

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

VOL. XXXIX, NO. 11 CHOCTAW, MS 39350 NOVEMBER 2009

TRIBAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

Choctaw-Kaul honored at MMBA event

In today's unsteady economy, just having some measure of success in a business can be rewarding enough, but to be recognized by your home state makes it even more worthwhile.

LEFT, *Kenny Tubby, President/CEO of Choctaw-Kaul Distribution Company.*

Choctaw-Kaul Distribution Company, a Native American owned manufacturer and national distributor of gloves, personal protective equipment and safety related products, was named a recipient of the Outstanding Minority Business Award (Northeast Region of Mississippi) by the Mississippi Minority Business Alliance (MMBA), Inc., during the 9th Annual Minority Business Awards Gala at the Hilton Jackson Hotel Oct. 2 in Jackson.

The annual event showcases minority businesses and corporations that have earned recognition for their services in the state.

Accepting the award was Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians member Kenny "Sonny" Tubby, CEO and President of Choctaw-Kaul. Accompanying Tubby was Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson, Choctaw Tribal Council member Peter Steve of the Tucker community and Tribal Attorney Tim Taylor.

"Anytime you are nominated and receive an award like

..............see AWARD, pg. 6

Steve, Wesley sworn into Tribal Council

Peter J. Steve of the Tucker community & incumbent Ann Wesley of the Crystal Ridge community were sworn into the Choctaw Tribal Council during a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at the Tribal Council Hall in Choctaw. Both were declared winners in elections held in their respective communities on Aug. 25. Steve is in his first term while Wesley was re-elected to her second term. Both will serve four-year terms that expire in 2013. Above, MBCI Secretary/Treasurer Lola Parkerson (far left) administers the oath of office to Steve (second from right) and Wesley.

Choctaw Health Center regains full accreditation

The Choctaw Health Department has been awarded full accreditation status after a review of the facilities in July. Joint Commission Accreditation is required for a facility to receive Medicare and Medicaid payments. These payments are essential to funding patient care and make up approximately one fifth of the Hospital's operating budget.

There are still a number of standards that will be reviewed by the Joint Commission in a few months, but the Joint Commission has accepted the Tribe's efforts to date and the administration foresees no difficulties meeting the remaining requirements.

"I thank the entire staff of the Choctaw Health Center for their diligence and perseverance in obtaining our full accreditation. I would especially like to thank Scott Allen, Nancy Melton, and Becky Champion who were vital to the effort. Without these people and the hard work of the Health Center staff we would not been able to accomplish this feat," said Josh Breedlove.

.....see ACCREDITATION, pg. 5

Denson crowned 2009 CCHS Homecoming Queen

Choctaw Central High School senior Melody Denson was crowned the 2009 Homecoming Queen at halftime of the Choctaw Central-Kemper County football game Oct. 9 at Warrior Stadium in Choctaw. Pictured from left are CCHS Principal Dr. Greg Carlyle, Melody Denson, her escort & father Michael Denson, Vice Mi̱ko Harrison Ben, & Tribal Education Services Officer Dalton Henry. The Warriors lost the contest 28-19.

FROM THE OFFICE OF MIKO BEASLEY DENSON

Choctaw Health Center and Choctaw Construction Group

I am proud to report that our Choctaw Health Center has regained full accreditation. The Joint Commission restored this status after their most recent inspection. This was a hard and very important fight.

After years of neglect, our Health Center's infrastructure had deteriorated to a point that was unsatisfactory. To restore our status with the Commission required making some tough choices but they have paid off, not only in the restoration of accreditation, but with the renewed ability of Tribal members to trust that they are receiving quality care.

There are still many challenges we face in this area but I am confident we will overcome them just as we have this one.

Much of the credit for winning this battle goes to Josh Breedlove. I asked Josh to handle the situation in May and he rose to the occasion. Yakoki, Josh. Read about the great job he did on the accreditation and the Health Center's budget in this issue on pages one and five.

Josh Breedlove

Josh will also serve as President of the Board of Directors of our Tribe's new holding company, Choctaw Construction Group. Tough economic times and tight budgets have forced us to examine every expenditure, not only in Tribal government, but at our enterprises as well.

This holding company structure is being created to merge our 8(a) companies under one corporate board. It will make our operations more efficient and allow for greater oversight.

The board will be made up of Tribal members with the talent, skills and education to move our 8(a) companies forward to a new level for the benefit of the Tribe and all Tribal members.

This effort is similar to the ongoing re-organization of Tribal government and the stream lining of operations at Pearl River Resort. For too long we trusted that good economic times like those in the 90s would go on forever.

The re-organization of government and enterprises creates leaner more efficient operations that will better endure hard times, now and in the future, and be more profitable. I encourage you to do the same in your personal finances and household budgets.

ABOVE, *attendees of the Mississippi Minority Business Alliance gala in Jackson were, from left, Kenny Tubby, Jackson Mayor Harvey Johnson Jr., & Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson.*
RIGHT, *Kenny Tubby, President/CEO of Choctaw-Kaul Distribution Company. Choctaw-Kaul was honored with the Outstanding Minority Business Award for the Northeast Region of Mississippi.*

Tribal Entrepreneurship and the Tribal Government Budget

I want to congratulate my friend, Kenny Tubby, who was recently honored by the Mississippi Minority Business Alliance. Kenny and his company, Choctaw-Kaul Distribution, are good examples of the type of entrepreneurial spirit that our Tribe must foster and embrace.

Kenny has found a specialized niche in the country's business community which has served him well and made us proud. I was pleased to join Kenny when he accepted this honor to add to a growing list of awards won through his innovation and dedication to customer satisfaction.

His company's diversified product line is a good example of a business strategy that has been successful in these tough economic times. And while we must continue to diversify our Tribal economy, it is equally important that we are conservative when creating our government budget.

Our budgets are based on revenue projections. Even the most sophisticated financial analysts are never 100 percent correct when making these predictions. That is why I insist that, when budgeting for programs and services for a new fiscal year, our projections are conservative. While we are hopeful that the country will soon begin to climb out of this recession, we should be prepared for the possibility that the recovery may take longer than we'd like.

We are a Tribe that generates a large percentage of its revenues from gambling. One thing we can never gamble with is our financial future. I will always insist that we prepare for the worst and hope for the best when it comes to our Tribal economy

..........continued next page

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM
P. O. BOX 6010
CHOCTAW, MS 39350

TELEPHONE 601-663-7736 FAX 601-656-6696

Melford Farve .... Communications Officer
Brian C. Willis .... Communications Editor
Kathie Henry .... Communications Assistant
Bradley Isaac .... Communications Assistant
Stephanie Farmer .... Communications Assistant

Items of interest to the local & Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER 2009 ISSUE IS FRIDAY, NOV. 6, AT 12 NOON.

and conservative revenue projections and budgeting are an important part of that philosophy.

SNAPAC in California

Brenda Stephens and Roseanna Thompson represented Choctaw at a recruiting meeting for the Sovereign Nations Alliance Political Action Committee (SNAPAC). The meeting took place at the National Congress of American Indians conference in Palm Springs, California. Representatives from over twenty tribes attended and learned about our effort to unify Indian Country and coordinate its political activities at the federal level.

If Native Americans are going to be heard in the halls of Congress, we will have to speak with one voice. SNAPAC will focus our resources where they can have the most impact.

We hope to add several members to the organization as the result of the Palm Springs meeting and grow the PAC steadily over the next few years. Chairman Marshall McKay of the Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians spoke at the event and endorsed SNAPAC. He will be a valuable addition to the team and should be able to help with our outreach to Tribes on the west coast.

Beasley Denson,
Tribal Mi̱ko

New Elderly Organization Committee elected

On Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009, elections were held for three positions on the 2009-2010 Elderly Organization Committee. Officers elected were Evaline Davis, President (center); Darry Henry, Vice-President (left); & Sammie Wilson, Secretary-Treasurer. These three individuals will serve one-year terms expiring in September 2010.

Tribal Council resolution summaries

The following ordinances & resolutions were submitted to the Tribal Council for consideration. The following is a brief summary & action taken. If you're interested in seeing the full text, visit the Offices of the Choctaw Tribal Council in Choctaw, or talk with your local representatives.

Regular Meeting (continuation), July 28, 2009

Resolution CHO 09-115, approving appointments to the Tribal Council Committees & their Chairs, was adopted 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-116, applying for the Joint Venture Construction Program from the Division of Facilities, Planning & Construction Office of Environmental Health & Engineering, Indian Health Services, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services for the construction of a new hospital, was adopted 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-117, approving the award of certain construction projects to IKBI, Inc. & to approve a standard form of agreement for repair & infrastructure improvement services for American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, was adopted 15 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-118, disposing of surplus Tribal equipment, was adopted 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-119, disposing of surplus donated items, was adopted 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-120 (B), designating land on the Frog Level Road to be used as a location for single-family & duplex dwellings for Choctaw Housing Authority, was adopted 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-121 (B), approving house sites in the Tucker Community, was adopted 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-122 (B), approving a business lease in the Pearl River Community, was adopted 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-123, applying for an Indian Community Development Block Grant for housing construction & renovations from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, was adopted 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-124, authorizing the Boys & Girls of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to participate in the mentoring program for at-risk Tribal youth & apply & accept funding on behalf of the community from the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs to support the mentoring program for at-risk Tribal youth, was adopted 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-125, authorizing the Department of Family & Community Services to apply for funding from the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation to support the Badges for Baseball Program for Youth Development, was adopted 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-126(B), approving blood increase degree for previously enrolled Tribal members, was adopted 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-127(B), approving Tribal enrollments, was adopted 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-128, applying for an Imminent Threat Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development for the rehabilitation of sewage lift stations in the Pearl River Community, was adopted 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-129, approving a Memorandum of Understanding Between the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians & the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a program of direct loans for Native Americans veterans living on trust lands, was adopted 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Special Call Meeting, September 30, 2009

Ordinance 66B, amending & restating the Charter of Choctaw Construction Group, Inc., was enacted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Ordinance 63F, amending & restating the Charter of IKBI, Inc., was enacted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Ordinance 59D, amending & restating the Charter of Applied Geo Technologies, Inc., was enacted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Ordinance 65C, amending & restating the Charter of Choctaw Ikhana Laboratory Services, Inc., was enacted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Ordinance 67A, amending & restating the Charter of Choctaw Design & Construction, Inc., was enacted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

see RESOLUTIONS, pg. 4

FROM THE MAILBAG

1996 BASKETBALL CHAMPS SAY THANKS

On behalf of the 1996 Lady Warriors basketball team, we like to show our appreciation to our fans. If it was not for people like you... the Lady Warriors of 1996 would have never made it in basketball as the best 2A champs in the State of Mississippi.

Your dedication to the games home & away made a very big difference. Fans like you went everywhere cheering us on, encouraging us to be the best we can be on the court. Just to see that many Choctaw people in the crowds also brought a smile to our face & made the Lady Warriors play even harder because we knew our fans believed in us. We say thank you very much for your support back then & we ask you to continue to show that same support always to Choctaw Central athletics.

And last, we would like to show our love & appreciation to the best coach in the world - Coach Willis Tullos. Sometimes people don't give credit to where credit is deserved & this coach definately deserves that credit for his very hard work, his time & dedication he has put in at Choctaw Central. Not only did Coach Tullos make a difference in girls basketball, but he made a difference in other sports as well & touched many of his former players' lives.

Coach Tullos showed us the meaning of hard work, making goals for ourselves in life & sports, & most importantly, he showed us how to believe in ourselves. As 1996 State Champions, we appreciate you & love you for making us who we were back then & who we are now. We thank God for making you a part of our lives. Without you, Choctaw Central Lady Warriors basketball would have never been what it is today - one of the elite basketball teams in the State of Mississippi. May God continue to richly bless you for touching the lives of many Choctaw people through Choctaw Central sports.

-From a member of the
1996 Lady Warriors Class 2A
State Championship Team

PEARL RIVER DEVELOPMENT CLUB MEETING

Thursday, November 5, 2009
Tribal Council Hall - 7:00 PM

RESOLUTIONS

.... continued from page three

Ordinance 68A, amending & restating the Charter of United Tribal Services, Inc., was enacted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Ordinance 69A, amending & restating the Charter of Choctaw Native Constructors, Inc., was enacted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Ordinance 70A, amending & restating the Charter of Choctaw Electrical, Inc., was enacted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-130, approving FY 2010 Operating & Capital Budgets for Ordinance 56 Tribal Enterprises, was adopted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-131, approving FY 2010 Operating & Capital Budgets for the Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise, was adopted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-132, approving FY 2010 Budgets for Tribal Administration, Programs, Agencies & Operations, was adopted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-133, approving appointments to the Tribal Council Committees & their Chairs, was adopted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-134, approving an amendment to the loan agreement dated November 04, 2004, as amended among the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians D/B/A Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians as a Tribe, the Lenders Referred to Therein, Nexbank, SSB, as Resigning Administrative Agent, & Commerzbank, AG, New York & Grand Cayman Branches, as successor Administrative Agent, necessary & negotiated fees & payments of the loan agreement, was adopted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-135, acknowledging, affirming & ratifying a General Agreement of Indemnity dated August 07, 2008 with Liberty Mutual Insurance Company executed by Choctaw Construction Group, Inc., its subsidiaries, IKBI, Inc., Choctaw Design & Construction, Inc., Choctaw Native Constructors, Inc., & by the Tribe as an additional indemnitor & to acknowledge, affirm & ratify a Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity, was adopted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-136, approving a Memorandum of Understanding Between the State of Mississippi, Mississippi Crime Laboratory & the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, was adopted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-137, authorizing the Tribal Mi̱ko to execute approved landowner waivers for lenders selling mobile homes to Tribal members residing on Reservation, was adopted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-138, affirming the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians support of & partnership with the 2010 Census, was adopted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-140, approving the 2009-2010 Wildlife Proclamation to regulate hunting & fishing on Tribal lands, was adopted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-141, donating Tribal surplus equipment, was adopted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-142(B), approving a lease for a house site for Delanie & Michelle Hickman in the Pearl River Community, was adopted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-143(B), approving a lease for a trailer site to Nedra York Poncho in the Pearl River Community, was adopted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-144(B), approving a lease for a trailer site to Elaine Williamson in the Conehatta Community, was adopted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-145(B), approving a lease for mobile sites for Choctaw Housing Authority, was adopted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 09-146(B), approving enrollments, was adopted 9 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstaining.

CHOCTAW HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWS

September 30, 2009

Joshua Breedlove, Esq.
HEALTH DIRECTOR
Choctaw Heath Center
210 Hospital Circle
Philadelphia, MS 39350

Dear Mr. Breedlove:

The Joint Commission would like to thank your organization for participating in the accreditation process. This process is designed to help your organization continuously provide safe, high quality care, treatment, and services by identifying opportunities for improvements in your processes and helping you follow through on and implement these improvements. We encourage you to use the accreditation process as a continuous standards compliance and operational improvement tool.

The Joint Commission is granting your organization an accreditation decision of Accredited for all services surveyed under the applicable manual(s) noted below:

- *Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals*

This accreditation cycle is effective beginning June 06, 2009. The Joint Commission reserves the right to shorten or lengthen the duration of the cycle; however, the certificate and cycle are customarily valid for up to 39 months.

Please visit Quality Check® on The Joint Commission web site for updated information related to your accreditation decision.

We encourage you to share this accreditation decision with your organization's appropriate staff, leadership, and governing body. You may also want to inform the Center of Medicare and Medicaid Services, (CMS), state or regional regulatory services, and the public you serve of your organization's accreditation decision.

Please be assured that The Joint Commission will keep the report confidential, except as required by law. To ensure that The Join Commission's information about your organization is always accurate and current, our policy requires that you inform us of any changes in the name of ownership of your organization or the health care services you provide.

Sincerely,
Ann Scott Blouin, RN, Ph.D
Executive Vice President
Accreditation and Certification Operations

ACCREDITATION .... **continued from page one**

In May, Breedlove was appointed by Mi̱ko Denson to oversee management of the accreditation crisis and work on budget issues at the Choctaw Health Center (CHC).

"Yakoki to the CHC staff for getting us through this tough time. I commend Josh Breedlove for the service he has provided to our Tribe. His hard work and dedication have made a better quality of life possible for all of us.

It is important that Tribal members have access to quality health care. And while the standard of care is not yet where we would like it to be, it is getting better every month. With this accreditation crisis behind us, we can move forward and use our resources to modernize equipment, improve outcomes and shorten wait times.

He also did an excellent job turning the budget problems we had at the Health Center around. His leadership has brought the CHC's budget out of the red and into the black. This accomplishment should not be overlooked and is appreciated, especially when our Tribe is watching every dime and Federal health care obligations to Indian Country are not being met," said Mi̱ko Denson.

Choctaw Health Department in Choctaw, Miss.

How to help your child with the flu

Whether it's seasonal or H1N1, there are a few things that you can do to help your child get back to normal.

First, everyone should understand that either type of flu is going to make you feel "bad". Generally, the child will begin by telling you either their body hurts or they have a sore throat. Parents will usually bring the child to the clinic. (NOTE: Due to the increase in flu patients, wait time will probably be increased).

The Choctaw Health Department (CHD) & the outlying clinics will do everything possible to get proper medicine for your child.

After you get home, the child might begin running a fever & should be treated with either Tylenol or Motrin, NOT aspirin. Aspirin may cause Reyes Syndrome in children. Give your child Tylenol or Motrin according to package directions (use as directed).

Be sure to give your child plenty of fluids - water, tea, juice, kool-aid, Gatorade, chicken broth, pop-sicles, or jello. Fluids will help keep your child hydrated & can also help calm the stomach.

If your child is having nausea, upset stomach, vomiting, or diarrhea, giving them clear liquids can help take the place of "food" while they are sick.

The Center for Disease Control suggests that you keep your child at home & away from other people until the fever has been gone for 24 hours (without Tylenol or Motrin). Let your child rest as much as possible.

If the child becomes lethargic (can't wake up, slurred speech, unable to walk, can't urinate [pee], or doesn't produce tears when crying), bring your child to the Emergency Room as quickly as possible.

If your child's fever reaches above 102.5 degrees (after taking Tylenol/Motrin) or the child has trouble breathing, come to the ER. High fever in children can cause "febrile seizures", which are very frightening for parents, so be sure to get the child to the ER for any seizure activity.

CHD cares about you & your family & we want to help you get well as quickly as possible. Your hospital & clinics will let you know when we receive the pediatric (child) flu vaccine, so that we can begin immunizing our little ones.

If you have any questions regarding care & treatment for flu patients, please call the Outpatient Department at 601-656-2211, Conehatta Clinic at 601-775-3442, Red Water Clinic at 601-267-8368, or Bogue Chitto Clinic at 601-656-5442.

AWARD .... continued from page one

this, you are always grateful and happy. I received this award in front of Mi̱ko Denson and those gracious enough to accompany me. I was humbled by the whole experience," said Tubby.

The award is given annually to a business that has achieved success over the years through their commitment to providing quality goods and service and their continued growth and progress.

"I have received several awards in my lifetime, but this one was closer to home and was made even more special," said Tubby.

A native of the Pearl River community, Tubby graduated from Choctaw Central High School in 1982 and attended the University of Southern Mississippi before venturing out into the business world.

Choctaw-Kaul, headquartered in Detroit, Mich., was established in 1998 and brings together over 89 years of manufacturing and distribution expertise. They offer a full line of safety and related products with direct manufacturing prices to a wide variety of customers all across North America.

With operations spanning globally, they have a manufacturing facility in Noxapater, Miss.

A few of their clients include General Motors, Ford Motor Company, Daimler Chrysler, Delphi, Honda Mercedes Benz, Mitsubishi, Exelon, Harley-Davidson Motorcycles, Caterpillar, and UPS.

Choctaw-Kaul has garnered several honors, including the GM Worldwide Supplier of the Year for 2002 and 2003, Ford Q1 Preferred Quality Award, Total Cost Savings Award and Emergence Response Award from Exelon, the Native American Business Alliance Native Business of the Year, and the Arkansas-Mississippi Minority Business of the Year.

Chartered in March 1997, MMBA, Inc., is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation with a primary mission of enhancing business opportunities. Their goal is to extend business opportunities for minority businesses through mutually beneficial economic links between minority suppliers and public and private sector entities.

MMBA serves as a catalyst for fostering a stronger, more diverse economic environment by promoting minority businesses in Mississippi. Membership is open to all minority businesses and major corporations.

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The Smell of Christmas

Still in Stock: Grapefruit Fandango, Citrus Plum Berry, & Fresh Fig

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On Sale NOW!!
Collegiate Blankets ~~$50.00~~...now $40.00
Collegiate Tumbler Sets ~~$28.00~~...now $25.00

388 Industrial Rd Choctaw, MS 39350 601.656.4521

MBCI members honored as Native American 40 Under 40

Cyrus Ben

James Robinson

Cyrus Ben and James Robinson, both members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI), were recently recognized as the next generation of outstanding Native American leaders under the age of 40 playing a significant role in shaping Indian Country.

Ben and Robinson, along with recipients from all over Indian Country, were honored as part of the Native American 40 Under 40 Recognition Reception during the 34th Annual Indian Progress in Business Event (INPRO) September 18, 2009, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Tulsa, Okla. The event was presented by The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) and sponsored by Raytheon.

To celebrate NCAIED's 40th anniversary year, the Native American 40 under 40 highlighted 40 existing and emerging American Indian leaders under 40 years of age who have demonstrated leadership, initiative and dedication to achieve exceptional contributions in their businesses and communities with particular impact to Indian Country.

Ben attended the event while Robinson couldn't make it due to a scheduling conflict. Both were nominated by their business associates and consultants.

Ben is the owner of Choctaw Office Supply, LLC, and Choctaw Contracting Solutions. He is also serving his first term as Pearl River community representative to the Choctaw Tribal Council.

"One of the most enjoyable parts of being on the council is getting to see the children in our schools. There was a time when many of them walked around with sad faces but now you see them with smiles on their faces, and knowing we are able to provide an atmosphere that has given many of our kids hope," said Ben. "As our ancestors made through the past and tough times, I believe it's in our culture and nature to strive when times are tough. I think it's a time to where we need to take a step back and not be complacent."

Ben, a graduate of Neshoba Central High School, earned

..........continued next page

ABOVE, *attending the Indian Progress in Business Event in Tulsa, Okla., were, from left, Karen H. Ben, Cyrus Ben & Cheriena B. Ben.* **LEFT**, *Cyrus Ben (far right) was honored as one of the Native American 40 Under 40 recipients by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development. Not pictured is recipient James Robinson.*

his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at Mississippi College in Clinton. He then worked in the wireless industry for six years and then with First American Printing and Direct Mail in Choctaw and gained valuable experience interacting with the customers.

"You work with every business, from contracting workers all the way to a CEO of a business. I was always around business people and I guess it's been an itch of mine to enjoy business and try to analyze it," said Ben.

Growing up, Ben says he gained his entrepreneurial sense by working with his father selling watermelons behind the back of a truck or working in his concession stand during the Choctaw Fair.

"I have to say some of that business handiness links from my childhood and being around my father (Jimmy Ben) and learning the trade skills of entrepreneurs," added Ben.

Ben has owned Choctaw Office Supply for the past four years and is a source for business and office furnishings, cleaning and office supplies and accessories. His newest venture, Choctaw Contracting Solutions, is under operations for a year now and primarily does commercial electrical work for government contracts on several military bases. Both businesses are operated from the Pearl River community.

"I would like to see more Mississippi Choctaws in that same spectrum and I believe that we can be achievers. We have to continue to take pride in our heritage and not to be held in a small spectrum of the reservation and that we can be achievers, not just here but throughout the United States," Ben said.

Robinson serves as Choctaw Ikhana's President since July 2008. In that capacity, he oversees all aspects of the company including corporate direction, business development and operations. Prior to joining Choctaw Ikhana, Robinson supported the growth of Applied Geo Technologies (AGT), Inc., as a Contracts Administrator and Business Analyst.

"I was elated. It was such an honor just to be considered. It's been a roller coaster ride and a learning experience altogether, but to be considered or nominated in my first year in this job, it was an honor," said Robinson of his inclusion in the Native American 40 Under 40.

Robinson, a graduate of Choctaw Central High School, earned his Bachelor's of Science Degree in Business Administration from Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

Throughout his collegiate career, Robinson served NASA at John C. Stennis Space Center through the Develop Program, a NASA Science Mission Directorate Applied Sciences Program that fosters human capital development to extend NASA science research to local communities.

"You have to be able to make it in the long haul so you have to pace yourself. Just be able to teach yourself that you do need that time and rest. But it also makes it a lot easy when you love your job. Makes waking up in the morning not such a hard thing to do," said Robinson.

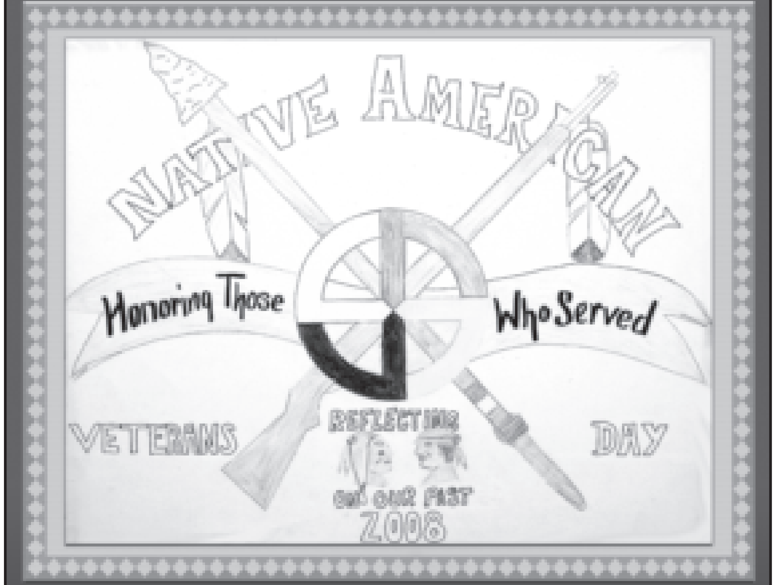
"I have my weekend but I also enjoy being able to get up and go to work on Mondays. There is always something new going on and you find yourself asking what's going to happen today. It keeps work interesting and I love my job."

Robinson is actively involved in his local community as a mentor for tribal youth. He resides with his daughter and family in Philadelphia, Miss.

"You can accomplish all the goals you set out to

...........see HONOR, pg. 10

2009 VETERANS DAY PARADE



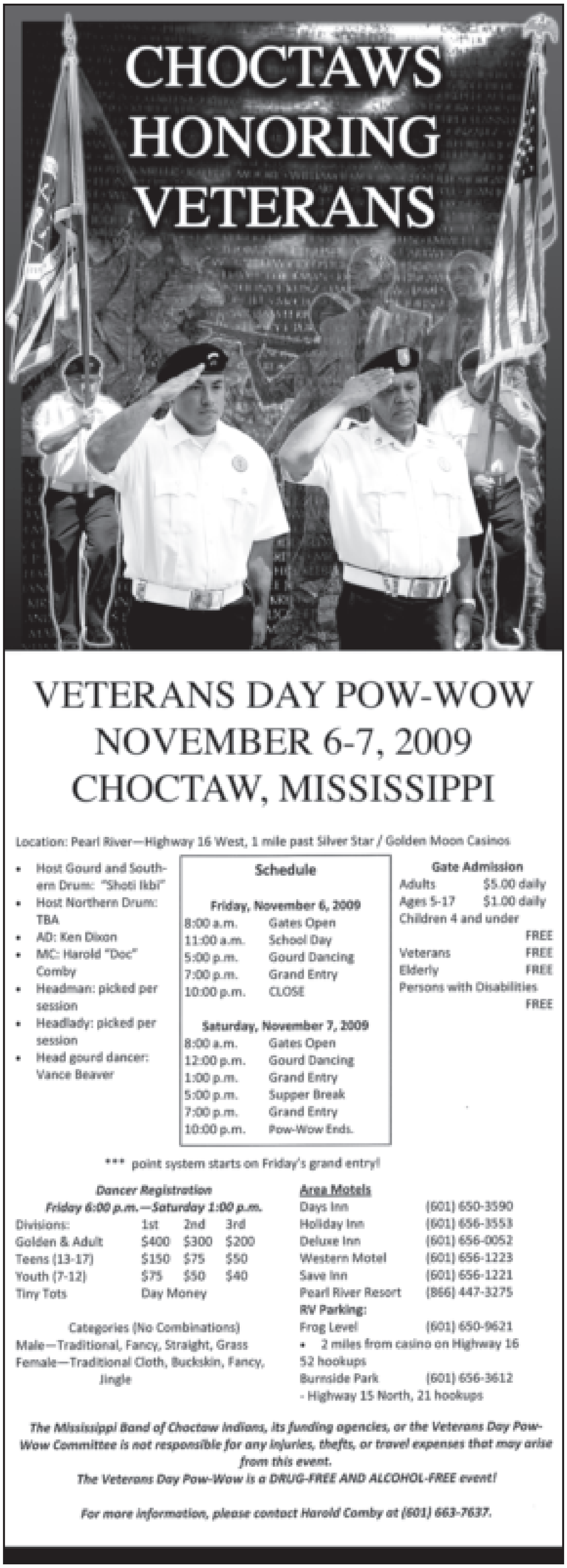
ARTWORK BY ZACHARY RENVILLE (BILLIE)
2008 VETERANS DAY POSTER CONTEST WINNER

PARADE DATE & TIME:
Saturday, November 7, 2009, 11 A.M.

PARADE ROUTE:
Starts on Industrial Road near the Manpower Building & ends at the Choctaw Central High School Baseball Field.

POST-PARADE CEREMONY (AMPHITHEATER)
Poster contest & parade winners to be announced.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL:
Rick Alex - 601.650.1688
Madge Isaac - 601.656.2070
Bernita Reynolds - 601.663.7652



CHOCTAWS HONORING VETERANS

VETERANS DAY POW-WOW
NOVEMBER 6-7, 2009
CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI

Location: Pearl River—Highway 16 West, 1 mile past Silver Star / Golden Moon Casinos

- Host Gourd and Southern Drum: "Shoti Ikbi"
- Host Northern Drum: TBA
- AD: Ken Dixon
- MC: Harold "Doc" Comby
- Headman: picked per session
- Headlady: picked per session
- Head gourd dancer: Vance Beaver

Schedule

Friday, November 6, 2009

8:00 a.m.	Gates Open
11:00 a.m.	School Day
5:00 p.m.	Gourd Dancing
7:00 p.m.	Grand Entry
10:00 p.m.	CLOSE

Saturday, November 7, 2009

8:00 a.m.	Gates Open
12:00 p.m.	Gourd Dancing
1:00 p.m.	Grand Entry
5:00 p.m.	Supper Break
7:00 p.m.	Grand Entry
10:00 p.m.	Pow-Wow Ends.

Gate Admission

Adults	$5.00 daily
Ages 5-17	$1.00 daily
Children 4 and under	FREE
Veterans	FREE
Elderly	FREE
Persons with Disabilities	FREE

*** point system starts on Friday's grand entry!

Dancer Registration
Friday 6:00 p.m.—Saturday 1:00 p.m.

Divisions:	1st	2nd	3rd
Golden & Adult	$400	$300	$200
Teens (13-17)	$150	$75	$50
Youth (7-12)	$75	$50	$40
Tiny Tots	Day Money		

Categories (No Combinations)
Male—Traditional, Fancy, Straight, Grass
Female—Traditional Cloth, Buckskin, Fancy, Jingle

Area Motels

Days Inn	(601) 650-3590
Holiday Inn	(601) 656-3553
Deluxe Inn	(601) 656-0052
Western Motel	(601) 656-1223
Save Inn	(601) 656-1221
Pearl River Resort	(866) 447-3275

RV Parking:

Frog Level	(601) 650-9621
Burnside Park	(601) 656-3612

Frog Level:
- 2 miles from casino on Highway 16
52 hookups

Burnside Park - Highway 15 North, 21 hookups

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, its funding agencies, or the Veterans Day Pow-Wow Committee is not responsible for any injuries, thefts, or travel expenses that may arise from this event.

The Veterans Day Pow-Wow is a DRUG-FREE AND ALCOHOL-FREE event!

For more information, please contact Harold Comby at (601) 663-7637.

Choctaw Food Distribution Program news

FDPIR Store Coming Soon

The Choctaw Food Distribution Program building in the Pearl River community will house a new FDPIR store in the coming months. Scheduled to open in January 2010, the new store will be housed in the warehouse section of the building and will allow eligible participants to choose their own produce. Remodeling will begin in November. Additional information will be available soon.

Participant Eligibility

Choctaw Food Distribution provides USDA Foods to eligible Choctaw households residing on the reservation or in the service area based on family size and income.

Pearl River Office hours are from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Distributions are on Monday & Fridays from 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Tailgate Schedule

Bok Cito - 1st Tuesday from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. & 1st Thursday from 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

Bogue Homa - 3rd Tuesday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Conehatta - 2nd Thursday from 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. & 3rd Thursday from 9 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

Crystal Ridge - 1st Wednesday from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Red Water - 2nd Tuesday from 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Standing Pine - 3rd Wednesday from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Tucker - 2nd Wednesday from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Elderly Day (Pearl River, Food Distribution Building) - 4th Monday from 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Application Processing Procedures

(8 a.m.-4 p.m.)

1. Complete application.
2. Weekly pay, need 4 checks stubs.
3. Bi-weekly pay, need 2 checks stubs.
4. Award letter, Social Security, SSI, retirement, and child support. Self employed must turn in all bank or transaction statement.
5. Social Security numbers on all household members.
6. Can I participate in both Food Stamp and Food Distribution Program in the same month? NO.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS NET MONTHLY INCOME STANDARDS*

(Effective October 1, 2009)

Household Size	48 Contiguous United States Income Limits	Alaska Income Limits
1	$1,044	$1,369
2	$1,356	$1,759
3	$1,667	$2,149
4	$1,991	$2,539
5	$2,329	$2,929
6	$2,666	$3,334
7	$2,978	$3,724
8	$3,290	$4,114
Each additional member	+$312	+$390

**The net monthly income standard for each household size is the sum of the applicable Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) net monthly income eligibility standard and the applicable SNAP standard deduction.*

Income Deductions – see 7 CFR 253.6(f)

Dependent Care Deduction - Households that qualify for the dependent care deductions are allowed a deduction of actual dependent care cost paid monthly to a non-household member.

Earned Income Deduction - Household with earned income are allowed a deduction of 20 percent of their earned income.

Medicare Part B Medical Insurance and Part D Prescription Drug Coverage Premiums

Households that incur that cost of Medicare Part B medical insurance and/or Part prescription drug coverage premiums are allowed a deduction of the monthly cost of the premiums.

Child Support Deduction - Households that incur the cost of legally required child support to or for a non-household member are allowed a deduction for the amount of monthly child support paid.

(Rev. 8/2009)

Business Spotlight: The Conehatta Market

One can make a business successful with the right amount of planning, hard work, and determination. Being a small business is never easy, regardless of the economic climate, but throw in a recession and running a small business becomes even more difficult.

For Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' member and small business entrepreneur Charlie Nickey, his ventures have fared well in recent years and sees a future of unlimited possibilities.

Nickey, of Conehatta, has operated a cleaning service, N&N Enterprise, LLC., for eight years and a convenience store called The Conehatta Market for three years this November.

The store, originally Conehatta Exxon, opened in 2002 as a result of community residents addressing the issue to tribal officials of the need for a convenience store to be located within the community.

"I had another business previous to this one, N&N Enterprise. We started in the red but after a couple of years we were able to build our finances up. It was then when I heard about the possibility of the store being for sale, so we took the opportunity to buy this place," said Nickey.

The store had two previous ownerships prior to Nickey's bid.

Using capital from his first business and securing a loan with the Tribe's Entrepreneurial Loan Program, Nickey became the third owner of the store in 2006.

Nickey oversees three employees, products and gasoline pumps, in addition to keeping track of the finances of the store.

"This business is always on the go. It's demanding. Any of these items you see here are often gone by the end of the week. This is a good business but you have to keep in mind that whatever capital you make often times you must invest back into the store," said Nickey.

Nickey - who served a term as Conehatta's representative to the Choctaw Tribal Council from 2005-09 - has ideas to expand the store to offer a dining area and a car wash adjacent to the facility.

The Conehatta Market stands as a cornerstone for the community by providing a place to purchase food, beverages, household products, and a gas station. Equally important is that it benefits community members as they would otherwise travel to neighboring towns to find a store with the same amenities.

"I thank my wife (Hilda), who has been nothing but supportive with the entire venture. Without her help in the business I don't think I could have gotten off the ground. I would also like to thank the (Tribe's) Economic Development for their aid and allowing us to take on our ventures," said Nickey.

Conehatta Market owner Charlie Nickey, left, with employee Charrity Waller.

Tribe to get stimulus funds for shelter

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians will receive almost $900,000 in federal stimulus fund to establish a domestic violence shelter on the reservation.

The Department of Justice announced the $899,999 award on Aug. 28 after concluding the first of three working sessions on tribal law enforcement. The funding from the Office on Violence Against Women is aimed at meeting the holistic needs of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

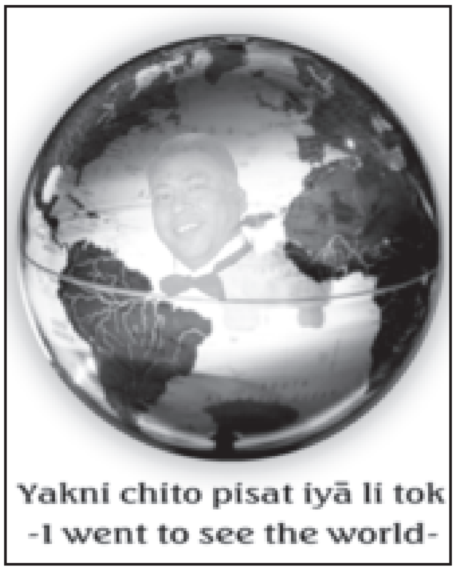
"American Indian and Alaska Native women are more likely to experience sexual assault and domestic violence than women from other racial or ethnic groups, which is why these funds are so vital," Attorney General Eric Holder said in a news release announcing the funding.

"These funds are just the beginning of a renewed partnership between the Department and our tribal communities to ensure the safety of every Indian woman and address Tribe's criminal justice challenges."

The Mississippi Choctaws will hire a full-time shelter director, hire a child services specialist to plan, organize and implement programming for children services at the shelter and five residential aides (three full time, two part time) to staff the shelter, provide assistance to clients and maintain a crisis hotline.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides the Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women with $20.8 million for the Indian Tribal governments Program to decrease the number of violent crimes committed against Indian women, help Indian tribes use their independent authority to respond to crimes of violence against Indian women and make sure people who commit violence crimes against Indian women are held responsible for their actions. The award period is 36 months.

Willis exhibits latest photo collection


Yakni chito pisat iyā li tok
-I went to see the world-

Photographer Andrew Willis, Jr., of Choctaw, Miss., exhibited his latest photograph collection at the Eudora Welty Library Meeting Room, located at 300 North State Street in Jackson, Miss.

The show, *"Yakni Chito Pisat Iya li Tok"* (Choctaw for "I went to see the world"), ran from Oct. 5 - Nov. 1. This was Willis' second show at the Welty Library, the first being *Cityscapes* in Jan.-Feb. 2008.

Although he considers himself a novice to the world of photography, Willis - a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians - garnered much acclaim with his photo exhibitions *Cityscapes* and *Tamaha* (which means town or city in Choctaw).

The son of the late Andrew Willis, Sr. and Eileen Billie of the Tucker Community near Philadelphia, Willis credits his oldest brother,

..........see PHOTOS, pg. 10

HONOR .... continued from page seven

accomplish if you just go out and get it... All it takes is a lot of hard work and effort, but you can accomplish your goals. To me, to be successful is to touch the lives of some of the younger people so they can go out and do all the things they need to fulfill their goals," said Robinson.

Choctaw Ikhana is a sister company of AGT, one of the premier providers of aerospace and defense services in the United States.

Ikhana (ik-ha-na) is a Choctaw word derived from the Muskogean language family which means to know, to have knowledge, to learn, intelligence.

Formed in June 2008 as part of a diversification plan designed to better utilize the growing technological resources and expertise of the MBCI, the company now provides laboratory services to a variety of aerospace and defense customers, including Kelly Aviation Center in San Antonio, Texas.

Choctaw Ikhana is a chartered corporation wholly-owned by the MBCI.

The INPRO 2009 Awards Banquet is the oldest and most prestigious Native American recognition event acknowledging accomplishments and contributions made by American Indians and those who support their economic and business development endeavors.

One of the highlights of the awards banquet is the presentation of scholarship awards presented to top American Indian undergraduate or graduate students majoring in business who have demonstrated a commitment to giving back to the American Indian community. Additionally, a portion of the proceeds raised support the mission of the NCAIED.

Knox wins Silver Star Hotel & Casino Golf Classic

NGA HOOTERS TOUR
NATIONAL GOLF ASSOCIATION
Sept. 13, 2007
Russell Knox
$33,500
Coby Brooks
www.ngahooterstour.com

From left is Jeff Harlow, Hooters Tour Director; Bert Isaac, volunteer chairman; Russell Knox, champion; Mark Powell, Silver Star representative; & Jim Ogletree, JR Clinic sponsor.

Russell Knox, of Jacksonville Beach, Fla., overcame a one stroke deficit to finish at 24 under par 264 to notch his first career NGA Hooters Tour win at the Silver Star Hotel & Casino Golf Classic over the Azaleas course at Dancing Rabbit Golf Club in Choctaw, Miss., on Sept. 13.

"It's a great feeling, greatest day of my career," said the 24 year-old Knox of his victory. "So many great players out here (Hooters Tour) I'm just happy to finally get a win."

The Scottish born Knox carded rounds of 65-65-66-68 en route to a two stroke victory over third round leader Joe Affrunti (Crystal Lake, IL) who finished at 22 under par 266.

"I did everything pretty well this week especially taking advantage of the par 5's (five eagles on the week). Saturday was a bit of a struggle but I managed to get through it and give myself a chance today. That's a big difference between winning out here and just finishing well," commented Knox.

Knox takes home $33,566 for the win while Affrunti earned $16,671 for his runner up finish.

PHOTOS .... continued from page nine

Jimmy Ben, for igniting his interest in photography when he was growing up.

"I saw his work and that got into my mind. I figured that maybe one of these days that would be me in his shoes," said Willis.

His interest peaked when he received a 35 mm camera as a gift when he was a teenager.

"I just started taking pictures of family and family gatherings. I guess I studied more into the subject, taking close up shots of that person. It got interesting at that point," Willis said.

Willis, a graduate of Choctaw Central High School, said his photography is basically still photos, black and white, sepia tone renderings of architectural views, statues and old buildings. His work has to have the perfect surroundings to compliment each other and brings into consideration the background, height, light, and shadows.

October 09, 2009
Mercedes Cotton
$1,000.00
One thousand + no/100
College Scholarships

Cotton named scholarship recipient

Mercedes Star Cotton, a 2009 graduate of Choctaw Central High School, was recently named a recipient of a $1,000 education scholarship by the Neshoba County Education Foundation. The Foundation, a non-profit organization dependent on donations & community support, is designed to enhance public education programs in Neshoba County. Cotton, who attends the University of Tennessee, was class valedictorian for the CCHS Class of 2009. Her honors included Biology I, English I, World Geography, Algebra II, Chemistry I, Accelerated English III, Spanish III, Advanced Algebra, Family Dynamics, U.S. Government, General Music, Physics, Yearbook Award, Mississippi Scholar, Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Award, Captain & Second Team All-District, Scholar Athlete for Soccer & Fast Pitch Softball, & JV MVP Softball. Pictured above with Mercedes (center) is her father, Robert Cotton (left) & Dalton Henry, Tribal Education Services Officer.

Pearl River Head Start American Indian Day Pageant winners

The Pearl River Head Start sponsored a pageant on Sept. 18, 2009, for the enrolled students in honor of American Indian Day. Several children participated & we're proud of the large turnout. We thank all the parents for their participation. Congratulations to our winners!

TOP, *from left, 1st alternate Ian Lewis, Brave Gannon Vaughn & 2nd alternate Cassius Thompson*

RIGHT, *from left, 1st alternate Tayla Willis, Princess Sharyl Thomas & 2nd alternate Mekiah Carey.*

Is your child ready to learn?
Put in an application for
Early Childhood today!

We provide learning opportunities for child development for children ages 8 weeks to 5 years.

For more information, contact your local Early Childhood Center:

Bogue Chitto 601-656-7224
*Bogue Homa 601-425-4044
Conehatta 601-775-3845
*Crystal Ridge 662-779-0632
Pearl River Day Care
601-656-9221
Pearl River Head Start
601-650-1719
Pearl River Early Head Start
601-389-2899
Red Water
601-298-9282
Standing Pine
601-298-1580
Tucker
601-389-2053

*Immediate enrollment available

CULTURAL PRESERVATION NEWS

CULTURAL PRESERVATION PROGRAMS

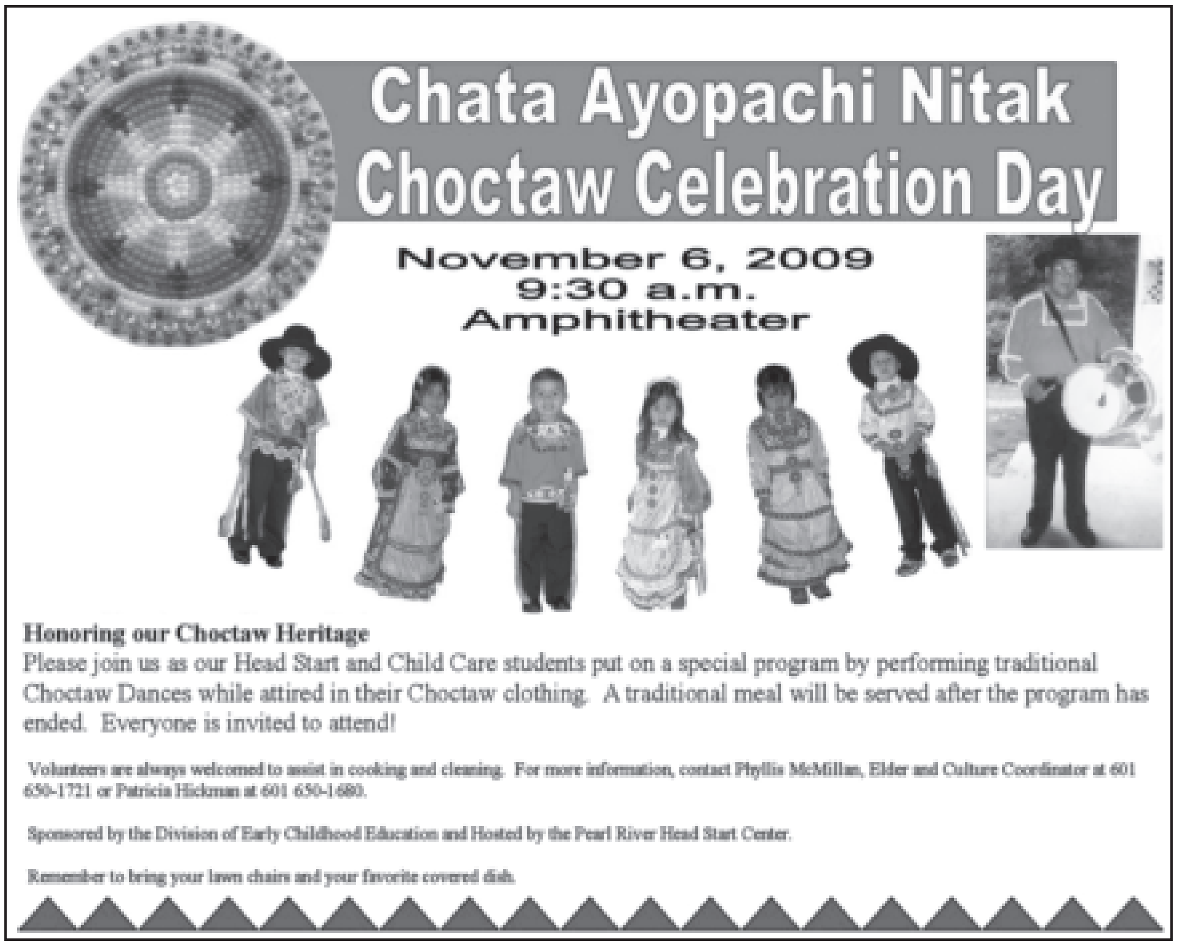
The Cultural Preservation Programs (CPP) Department had their first orientation meeting with the newly appointed Director, Roseanna Thompson, on Oct. 1, 2009. The Cultural Affairs Program, Museum, Archives, Tribal Language, and Choctaw Fair will be under her direction with the new reorganization plan going into effect this new fiscal year.

Henderson Williams, Head of Division of Tribal Member Services, introduced the reorganization plan to the employees and encouraged everyone to strive to accomplish the mission of the CPP - to preserve, promote, embrace, and enhance the Cultural Heritage of the Choctaw people.

Mrs. Thompson discussed the need for unity in the body of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and how

.......see CULTURE, pg. 12

Henderson Williams, standing, Head of Division of Tribal Member Services, encouraged everyone to preserve, promote, embrace, & enhance the Cultural Heritage of the Choctaw people.



Chata Ayopachi Nitak
Choctaw Celebration Day

November 6, 2009
9:30 a.m.
Amphitheater

Honoring our Choctaw Heritage

Please join us as our Head Start and Child Care students put on a special program by performing traditional Choctaw Dances while attired in their Choctaw clothing. A traditional meal will be served after the program has ended. Everyone is invited to attend!

Volunteers are always welcomed to assist in cooking and cleaning. For more information, contact Phyllis McMillan, Elder and Culture Coordinator at 601 650-1721 or Patricia Hickman at 601 650-1680.

Sponsored by the Division of Early Childhood Education and Hosted by the Pearl River Head Start Center.

Remember to bring your lawn chairs and your favorite covered dish.

CULTURE .... continued from page eleven

important it was that we all work together as one to accomplish our mission.

We can all make a choice to work with one another or we can choose to sit back, grumble, complain and resist the change. As the new CPP group, will we choose to accept the change and learn to work together as one? The group responded positively.

Martha Spencer, Choctaw Heritage Center Museum Liaison, and Thallis Lewis, Cultural Arts Coordinator, stated they were excited about the merging of all programs and are ready to start working on visions that have yet to be accomplished.

SPECIAL PROJECTS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tribal Language Program, now a part of the Cultural Preservation Programs, applied for a Native Language Preservation and Maintenance Planning Grant from the Administration for Native Americans in March 09 and are happy to announce the "Ishtatahli Project" (Planning and Preparation) project has been approved for 24 months.

The need addressed by this planning grant is to plan for the maintenance of the Choctaw language among all school-aged children from pre-school through high school. The objectives of the project are:

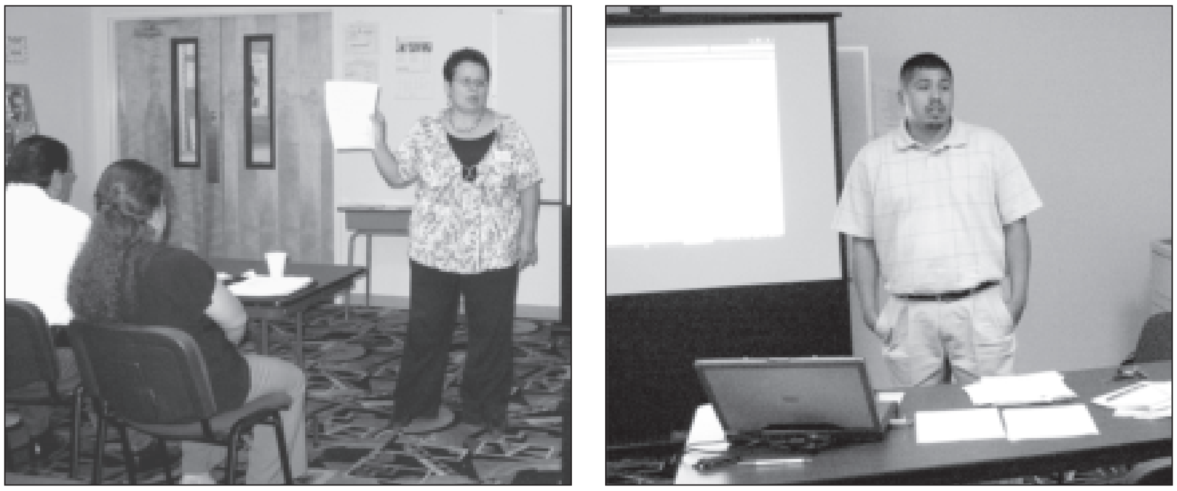
Objective 1: Identification, Collection, and Review of Available Resources in: 10 cultural materials currently used in Choctaw schools, both here and Oklahoma; 2) Choctaw language materials; 3) general language pedagogy materials adaptable to the teaching of the Choctaw language.

Results or Benefits Expected: The MBCI will have identified, collected, and reviewed available resources both here in Mississippi and Oklahoma at the end of the project to assist with the planning of the Tribe's goals on Choctaw Language Preservation and Maintenance.

Objective 2A: Plan and design 45 multi-media Choctaw language learning tools which will attract today's technologically oriented students and facilitate teacher utilization.

Results or Benefits Expected: The MBCI will have planned and designed 20 storybooks, 10 skits for video production, a Puppet Theater with 10 skits, 5 interactive online games, and a Choctaw Language Resource Website.

At the conclusion of the Ishtatahli Project, all these language learning tools will be available for use by community members, educators, Choctaw language instructors, and Tribal members.



(LEFT) *Mrs. Thompson, standing, discussed the importance of working together as one.*
(RIGHT) *Jay Wesley, CPP Special Projects Planner/ Coordinator, reviewed the project goals & objectives for the ECHO, Chahta Immi & Ishtatahli Grants CPP will be operating this year.*

8th Annual FIRST LEGO League Tournament to be held Nov. 21

Teams solve real-world problems through robot design and research at the 8th annual Choctaw Tribal Schools FIRST LEGO, League Tournament on November 21, 2009.

More than 130 students from the Choctaw communities have been tasked with the challenge and excitement of designing and building an original robot in the FIRST LEGO, League program (www.firstlegoleague.org) on Saturday, November 21, 2009, at the Pearl River Elementary School Gymnasium.

Eight weeks of research and design will culminate in the Choctaw Tribal Schools FIRST LEGO, League Tournament where teams of children and mentors will demonstrate their problem-solving skills, creative thinking, teamwork, competitive play, sportsmanship, and sense of community. This action-packed event is free and open to the public.

This year's Challenge, "Smart Moves", is about accessing people, places, goods and services in the safest, most efficient way possible. In this journey, teams will consider many modes of transportation beyond their daily routine and streamline their options by making smart moves!

The competition is judged in five areas: research and presentation; robot performance; technical mechanics of the robot's construction; teamwork; and gracious professionalism. The highest honor will go to the team that best exemplifies the spirit and values of the program.

Founded by inventor Dean Kamen, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was created to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. FIRST LEGO, League is an international program for 9 to 14 year-old children created in a partnership between FIRST and the LEGO Company in 1998.

Each September, FIRST LEGO, League announces the annual Challenge to teams, which engages them in authentic scientific research and hands-on robotics design. Using LEGO MINDSTORMS‰ technologies and LEGO bricks, children work alongside adult mentors to design, build and program robots to solve real-world challenges. After 8 intense weeks, the competition season culminates at high-energy, sports-like tournaments.

Since it's beginning, FIRST has had a positive impact on students and academic communities.

"We need to show kids that it's more fun to design and create a video game than it is to play one," said Dean Kamen, FIRST Founder. "In FIRST LEGO, League, kids discover career possibilities and learn to make positive con-

BOGUE CHITTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCESS & BRAVE PAGEANT WINNERS

(NAMES UNAVAILABLE AS OF PRESS TIME)

Dancer performs for Bogue Chitto students

Josh Denson performs several dances for the students at Bogue Chitto Elementary.

On Sept. 23, the students in Mrs. Franklin's 7th & 8th grade classes at Bogue Chitto were treated to a performance of traditional dances by custodian Josh Denson. Josh is part of a group of dancers that travel with Norma Chae Isaac, Liha Princess for 2008-09.

Josh has been attending pow wows for three years, but this is his first year to dance in competition. Some of the dances they perform include the Grass Dance, Chicken Dance, Fancy Dance, & the Straight Dance.

Josh explained to the students that in order to compete a dancer must have a good attitude & the proper regalia. If an article of the regalia falls off during dancing, the dancer is immediately disqualified. Some of the regalia pieces Josh wears include a bustle (made of dyed turkey feathers), head dress (made of yarn, deer hair & porcupine hair), choker (bones & pony beads), shield, fan, apron, bracelets, breastplate, bells, moccasins, side drops, & a staff.

The next pow wow that Josh will compete in will be in Louisiana during the month of November. Some other places he has traveled for competitions include Alabama, Mississippi & South Carolina.

Mrs. Franklin's classes would like to thank Josh for sharing his dances with us & we wish him the best in November!

Conehatta Brave & Princess winners

Congratulations to the following winners of the Princess and Brave Contest at Conehatta Elementary School. Pictured above from left are Tiny Brave Christiansen Thomas, Tiny Princess Haylin Anderson, Junior Brave Keaton Taylor, & Junior Princess Trinesa Isom. Pictured right is a student participating in a blow gun activity. Several activities were held commemorating American Indian Week.

PEARL RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AMERICAN INDIAN DAY PAGEANT WINNERS

Division I Winners
Sydney Nickey & Jerious Wesley

Division II Winners
Cori Keats & Cohen Keats

Division III Winners
Alice Keats, Asa Keats & Reyes Willis

Division IV Winners
Breanna Isaac & Stormin Dixon

Nutrition educator visits RWES

Mrs. Vicki Ganaan, Nutrition Educator from the Mississippi State University Extension Office in Leake County, helps the Pre-K class at Red Water Elementary build a web for "Terry the Spider" as they talk about how we get our food.

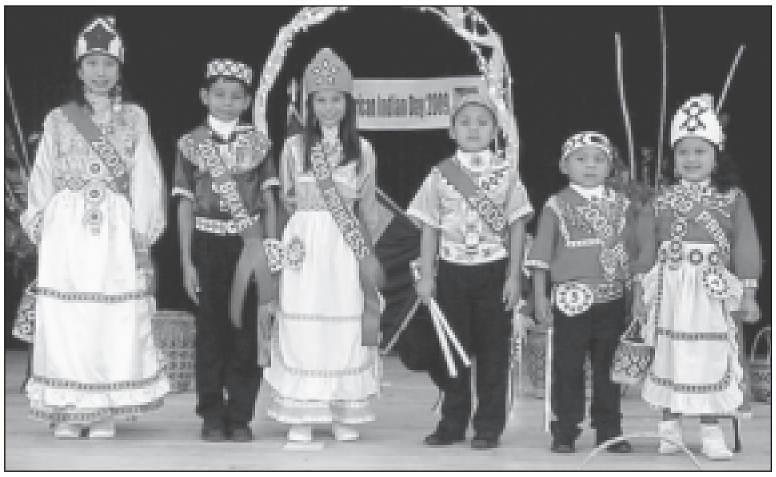
RWES KICKS OFF READ ALOUD MONTH

On Thursday, Oct. 1, with a parent meeting titled *Sharing Through Reading*, parents, guardians & others visited children's classrooms & read a book with the students. Everyone was invited to visit Red Water Elementary during the month of October & read a book to one of the classes.

Robin Willis, Sr. reads with his children, Robin Willis, Jr., Montero Willis, Nakeya Willis, & Shawn Willis.

Annette Arvizu, right, reads with her daughter, Pernilla Arvizu.

Chassidy Wilson, right, reads with her daugther, Kassie Cox.



RWES Brave & Princess Pageant winners

Winners of Red Water Elementary Brave and Princess Pageant were, from left, Delisa Chickaway, Bryton Wilson, Samantha Wilson, Iverson Allen, Maddux Dixon, & Arionna Dixon.

RWES READERS HAVE ICE CREAM PARTY

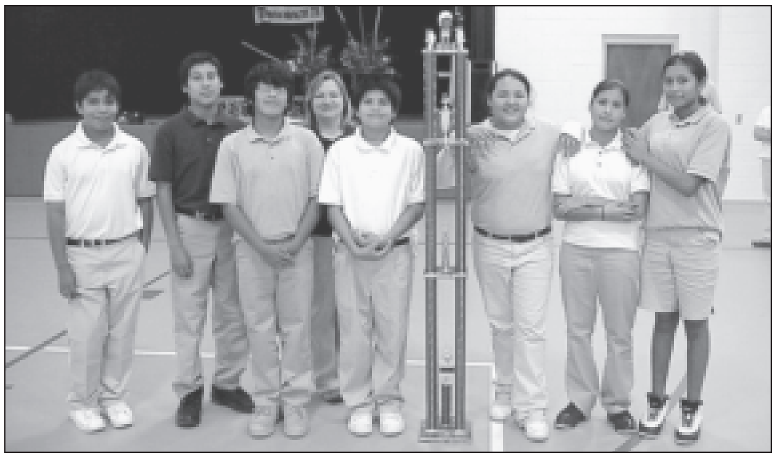
Congratulations to Richanna Sockey for having 131 AR points during the first nine weeks.

Red Water celebrated reading success with an AR ice cream party. Students who achieved their accelerated reading goal for the first nine weeks were treated to ice cream sundaes. Students who reach goals for the second nine weeks will be able to play bingo for books & prizes.

Students honored for the first nine weeks were: 2nd grade, Armando Lopez, Jaida Bell, Taezlin Tubby, Iverson Allen, Michaela Dixon, Pernilla Arvizu, O'Rieon Bell, Anna Flores, Octavious Jones, Layla Willis, Natory Tsosie; 3rd grade, Japheth John, Catherine Tubby, Reann Meely, Rayden Sockey, Keri Jim, Justine Isaac, Errol John, Malayiah Willis, Kaleb Solomon, Myric Anderson, Mercedez Wilson, Camryn Vivians, Sheyann Bell, Toklow York; 4th grade, Rey Barragan, Matthew Allen, Jayshun Thomas, Sawyer Tubby, Catina Townsend, Eric Dixon, Destinee Jones, Neshoba Reed, Tiara Cotton; 5th grade, Jessalyn Williams, Stacey Tubby, Rebekah Willis, Xena Willis; 7th grade, Richanna Sockey, Selena John; 8th grade, Sharissa Jefferson.

Mobile Resource Center at RWES

Heather Adams & Robert P. Tubby work with students on math & reading skills on the Title 1 Mobile Resource Center while at Red Water Elementary School.



Highest attendance rate at Red Water for Sept.

The seventh grade class at RWES kept the attendance trophy for the second month in a row. They had the highest average attendance rate for September at 97.14. Pictured from left are Daelin Cotton, Ramsey Reed, Dustin Meely, teacher Madonna Watkins, Kevin Josh, Richanna Sockey, Selena John, & Nakeya Willis.

RWES builds books

Red Water Elementary School parents, students & staff enjoyed the Build a Book activity held in the gym on Monday, Oct. 19.

RWES outstanding attendance recognized

The following students were recently recognized for having no absences from school for the first nine weeks.

They are Carlos Flores, Cadee McMilllan, Dravin Tubby, Kobe Willis, Breely Wilson, Diego Arvizu, Jurnee Jones, Pernilla Arvizu. Anna Flores, Octavious Jones, Layla Willis, Japheth John, Catherine Tubby, Matthew Allen, Rey Barragan, Eric Dixon, Steven Gibson, Neshoba Reed, Jayshun Thomas, Alyssa Jones, Aaleyiah Willis, Rebekah Willis, Bryton Wilson, Shawn Willis, Karl Wilson, Ramsey Reed, Richanna Sockey, Nakeya Willis, Delisa Chickaway, John Evans, Sharissa Jefferson, & Miles Yazzie.

SPES Braves & Princesses

Pictured above are the winners of the 2009-10 Standing Pine Elementary School Brave and Princess Pageants. From left are Little Brave Ethen Hernandez, Little Princess Kelsey Tangle, Brave Brayon Farve, & Princess Sydni Tangle.

Building books at SPES

Standing Pine Elementary students, parents & staff had a great time building books together.

New staff members at SPES

Meredith Sanders

Dawn Harrell

Erica Gray

Linda Peoples

Standing Pine Elementary School (SPES) welcomes new additions to the school faculty this school year.

Meredith Sanders

Meredith Sanders is teaching 5th & 6th grade Math & Science. She has six years teaching experience. She is a graduate of Leake Academy, East Central Community College & Mississippi State University-Meridian Branch. She lives in Freeny with her husband, Dustan, & 4 year-old son, John Riley.

Dawn Harrell

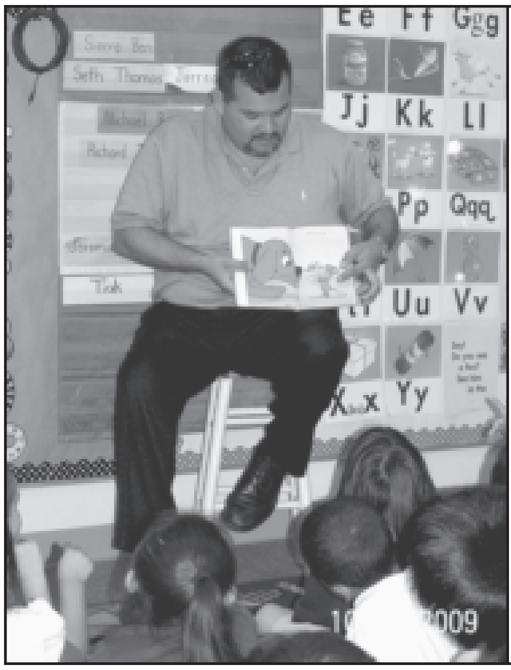
Dawn Harrell teaches 4th grade at SPES. She has been a teacher for 8 & 1/2 years. She resides in Freeny & attends Freeny Baptist Church. She is married to Jeff Harrell & they have two children, Hayly & Hannah Mae.

Erica Gray

Erica Gray is the dyslexia therapist. A graduate from Delta State University, she taught 4 years Pre-K at Pearl River DayCare Center & 8 years Special Education at Tucker Elementary. She is National Board Certified in Exceptional Education & currently enrolled in the Masters program in Dyslexia Therapy at Mississippi College. She is married to Jim Gray & they have 2 sons McKay & James William.

Linda Peoples

Linda Peoples is returning home to SPES as the Curriculum Specialist. She graduated from Mississippi State University with a B.S. Degree in Elementary Education. She is also a National Board Certified Teacher. She has worked for the Choctaw Tribal Schools for 20 years. She is married to Shelly Peoples from the Standing Pine Community & they have two children, Josh & Hannah. Her future plans is to begin her Masters Degree in Administration.



Edwards reads to students

Choctaw Tribal Councilman Kevin Edwards, of the Standing Pine Community, reads to Standing Pine Elementary School Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten students for October Read Aloud month.

Tucker School hosts Fitness Day

Coach Tom Johnson, Tucker Elementary School P.E. instructor, recently organized the first Teacher/Staff/Parent Fitness Day. All were invited to participate with a class during physical education time. With encouragement from Tucker Principal Brooke Sibley, all staff took part in the President's Physical Fitness Challenge. Coach Johnson said, "This is a good chance for adults to show their students that their own physical fitness is important." Pictured above, from left, is parent Bridgeo Phillips & students Bridgeo Phillips, Jr., El Roy Willis & Xative Nickey.

Tucker School celebrates American Indian Week

The opening festivities for the week were on Monday with a display of arts & crafts & essays the students wrote about their Native Pride. On Tuesday, the cafeteria staff treated the students, parents & staff to a favorite meal of Indian Tacos.

Due to heavy rains, field activities were postponed until October. However, students enjoyed an afternoon of hearing traditional Choctaw stories & traditional dancing.

Little Princess & Brave Elleigh Willis & Derek Reynolds

Division II Princess & Brave Alexandra Mingo & Malakai Charlie

Division III Brave & Princess Ricky Anderson & Autumn McMillan

Tucker Elementary students enjoyed an afternoon of listening to traditional Choctaw stories. Storytellers who volunteered their time were

Roseanna Thompson, pictured left, & Woodlin Lewis, pictured right. Not pictured is storyteller Rosalie Steve.

Storytellers who volunteered their time & wealth of Choctaw knowledge were Rosalie Steve, Roseanna Thompson & Woodlin Lewis. Music teacher Diane Comby led the chanting for dancing. Many parents & friends of Tucker students also joined the students for lunch, storytelling & dancing.

The Brave & Princess Pageant was held Thursday morning. Emcee for the pageant was Tia Anderson. Judges were Elter Wilson, Dianne Ben & Bobby Smith.

Providing special entertainment were the 7th-8th grade girls signing "Go My Son." Special entertainment was "The Michael Jackson dancers," Ricky Anderson, Eyabay Henry, Cy McMillan, & Braxton Kanagawa.

Over 35 students competed for the honor of being Tucker Brave & Princess. Winners for 2009-10 were as follows: Little Brave & Princess - Derek Reynolds & Elleigh Willis; Division II Brave & Princess - Malakai Charlie & Alexandra Mingo; & Division III Brave & Princess - Ricky Anderson & Autumn McMillan.

The Tucker Cafeteria Staff provided a delicious traditional meal of fry bread, chicken, hominy, field peas, & peach cobbler. Volunteers helping to cook were Georgianna McMillan, Peggy Joe & Raphael McMillan.

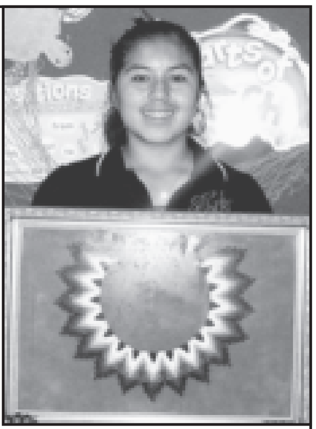
Helping to make the crowns were Pat & Sally Willis & Rita Seward created the banners. Assisting the committee with decorating for the pageant was Mary Agent. Also donating to a successful week was Tucker Council member Dorothy Wilson. Many guests enjoyed this meal with the children.

Principal Brooke Sibley said, "A very special thanks goes to all of the Tucker faculty staff, parents & community volunteers as their support & extra efforts insured that the students had a memorable American Indian Week despite the inclement weather. I especially want to express my appreciation to the hard working American Indian Week committee including Sally Willis, Edna Cotton, Ari Wallace, Lewana Otter, & Julia Cole."

Tucker Elementary's Student Council for 2009-10

Tucker Elementary School recently held elections for the 2009-2010 student council. Elected officers were, pictured from left, Shania Farmer, president; Tisheena Anderson, vice-president; representatives Melody Charlie, 6th grade; Reese Tubby, 5th grade; & Candace Mingo, 4th grade.

John represents CCMS at convention



Lanena John, pictured right, represented Choctaw Central Middle School at the National Jr. Beta Club Convention in Orlando, Fla., in June. She submitted a winning entry in the original handmade jewelry division of the Arts & Crafts Competition. Lanena was competing against entries created by Jr. Beta Club members from schools throughout the U.S. She received an invitation to attend the National Jr. Beta Club Convention when her original designed collar necklace placed second in the Arts & Crafts Competition at the Mississippi State Jr. Beta Convention at Tupelo in March.

CCMS elects student council

Choctaw Central Middle School Student Council members include Alise Meely, Nikkole Isaac, Daysianara Lewis, Kerigan Wesley, Langley King, Ozzie Willis, Trinity Tubby, Shani John, Robert Jefferson, & Ziahay Willis.

Pictured left

CCMS Students of the Month

Choctaw Central Middle School recently honored Students of the Month for August. Honored were Allandra York, Kelly Dixon, Tanya Herrera, LaShayla McMillan, Calvin Roberts, Tyler Lewis, Kandace Lasiloo, Robert Jefferson, Jada Sockey, & Nikkole Isaac.

2009 CHOCTAW TRIBAL SCHOOLS YEARBOOKS HAVE ARRIVED!

May Be Purchased for
$60 at the CCHS Main
Office at
601-663-7777
or contact
Penny Hardy
(phardy@cc.bia.edu)

CHOCTAW CENTRAL CLASSIC

Saturday, November 7, 2009
CCHS Gymnasium

TIME	**SCHEDULE OF GAMES**
11:30 am	West Lauderdale vs. Philadelphia
1:00 pm	Louisville vs. Newton County
2:30 pm	Franklin County vs. Kosciusko
4:00 pm	Southeast Lauderdale vs. South Leake
5:30 pm	Carthage vs. Columbus
7:00 pm	CCHS Lady Warriors vs. Forest
8:30 pm	CCHS Warriors vs. Newton County (Boys)

CCHS band receives high ratings at state marching band festival

CHOCTAW, Miss. - The Choctaw Central High School Maroon Band received high ratings at the Mississippi High School Activities Association's (MHSAA) Region III State Marching Band Festival in Meridian on Saturday, Oct. 10.

The band received a Superior rating in the Color Guard category and Excellent ratings in the Drum Major, Percussion, and Band categories.

The Maroon Band has consistently received high ratings at state and local competitions for the past several years.

In addition to their outstanding performance at Meridian, the band also received Superior ratings in the Drum Major, Color Guard, and Percussion categories and an Excellent rating in the band category at the Copiah Marching Festival in Gallman, Miss., on Saturday, Oct. 3. The color guard also received the Best in Class rating.

The next competition will be on Saturday, Oct. 17 at the Chunky River Small Band Festival in Union, Miss.

A week later, on Saturday, Oct. 24, the band will compete at the State Marching Band Championships at Co-Lin Community College in Wesson, Miss.

The band will close out the month of October with a competition at the West Alabama Marching Festival in Gordo, Ala., on Saturday, Oct. 31. The Maroon Band asks that family members, friends, and community members show their support by coming to the competitions.

The Choctaw Central High School Maroon Band is under the leadership of Band Director Elter Wilson. The Maroon Band is one of only two all-Native American band programs east of the Mississippi River.

English II Tutoring Program at CCHS

The Title VII English II School Day Tutoring Program at Choctaw Central High School has been in progress since January 2008. The objective of the Tutorial Program is to assist students in becoming proficient in English II.

The program is designed to enhance student learning and targets students who need extra help in passing the Mississippi SATP English II Tests. Students must pass two separately administered English II Tests - the Essay Writing Test and the Multiple Choice Test in Vocabulary/Reading and Writing/Grammar.

Ms. Jan Thompson is the English II Tutor and presently has 25 students from grades 9-12 participating in the program. This semester she is primarily tutoring Retest students (i.e., those who have previously taken but not yet passed the English II Multiple Choice Test) and is working closely with Mrs. Suzanna Edwards and Mr. Andy Hardy who teach the 11th and 12th grade English II remediation classes.

She also coordinates her tutorial efforts with the two 10th grade English teachers at CCHS, Mrs. Wilma Smith and Ms. Jennie Vance.

Ms. Thompson, who tutors three days each week, pulls students from their remediation and non-academic classes and works with them individually and in small groups. She also uses the instructional programs available via the Online Plato Learning Environment. Additionally, she works with students in the regular classroom setting whenever possible.

Tutorial students take a Pre-Test and a Post-Test at the beginning and the end of each semester to monitor their progress and achievement. The Pre-Test results are used to focus tutorial sessions on the objectives needing the most review.

Ms. Thompson, the English II remediation teachers, and the English II teachers are hopeful they will see passing scores on the State SATP English II Retest(s) for all the students in the Tutorial Program.

The first tutorial session began September 8 and will end December 10. The second tutorial session will start January 4 and will continue through May 6.

Mr. William F. Bell is the Title VII Program Coordinator.

Seated from left are students Jason Morris, Tara Willis, Antonia Jim, & Brett Wishork. Back row are tutors Ms. Thompson, Mrs. Edwards & Mr. Hardy.

A SAFE PLACE FOR CHOCTAW CHILDREN

2009 Holiday Safety Tips

The holidays are an exciting time of year for kids. To help ensure they have a safe holiday season, here are some tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

DECORATIONS

- In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable. Avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a young child to eat them.
- Follow container directions carefully to avoid lung irritation while decorating.

FOOD SAFETY

- Bacteria are often present in raw foods. Fully cook meats & poultry, & thoroughly wash raw vegetables & fruits.
- Be sure to keep hot liquids & foods away from the edges of counters & tables. They can be easily knocked over by a young child's exploring hands.

HAPPY VISITING

- Clean up immediately after a holiday party. A toddler could rise early & choke on leftover food or come in contact with alcohol or tobacco.
- Remember that the homes you visit may not be childproofed. Keep an eye out for danger spots.
- Trying to stick to your child's usual routines, including sleep schedules & timing of naps, can help you & your child enjoy the holidays & reduce stress.

FIREPLACE

- Before lighting any fire, remove all flammables from fireplace area.
- Use care with "fire salts", which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fire.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF MISSISSIPPI
BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

NEWS & NOTES

BOK CITO UNIT

The Bok Cito Boys & Girls Club would like to share our September events & activities with the community. Bok Cito Unit currently serves age 5-18.

We, the staff, would like to thank parents & community leaders in having a play in the increase of members enrolled at Bok Cito Unit. Events that took place for September 2009 are as follows.

Teen Center

Bok Cito held Teen Night on Sept. 11. Bok Cito would like to thank Tribal Council member Doris Thompson for attending our first Teen Night for the fall semester. Thompson spoke to members about setting & keeping goals.

Prevention/Education

On Sept. 14, Cheryl Smith came to Bok Cito Unit to speak to members ages 10-up about Date Violence. This event corresponded with the target program Date Smart in which Bok Cito Unit offers to members.

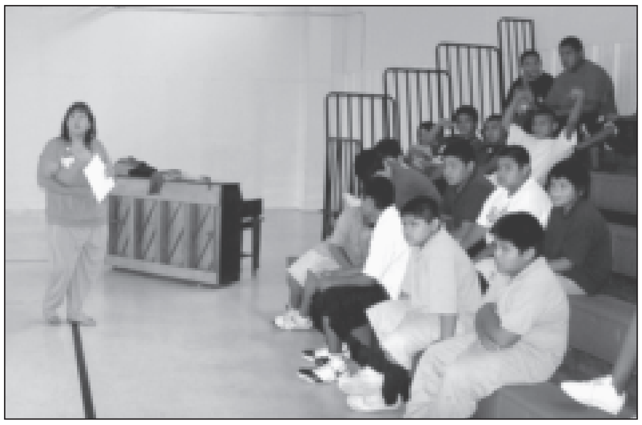
On Sept. 23, Sharon Hockett from the Choctaw Health Center spoke to member's ages 9-up about HIV/AIDS. This event corresponded with the target program Act Smart/Smart Moves /Smart Girls in which Bok Cito offers to members.

On Sept. 23, Susan Cosgrove from the MSU Extension Service spoke to 12-up members about budgeting & spending money. This event corresponded to Money Matters Program offered at Bok Cito Unit.

Jr. Staff/Torch

On Sept. 18, Jr. Staff/Torch members assisted the Bok Cito staff with its 2nd Annual Princess & Braves Pageant. Bok Cito Unit would like to

..........continued next page



ABOVE, *Bok Cito club members enjoyed delicious Indian Tacos prepared by staff & parent volunteers. Pictured standing is Doris Thompson, Bogue Chitto Tribal Council member.* **CENTER**, *Parent volunteers enjoy Indian Tacos too.* **RIGHT**, *Guest speaker Sharon Hockett, far left, from the Choctaw Health Center speaks to Bok Cito members about HIV/AIDS awareness.*

thank Bok Cito Head Start Program for providing us with entertainment.

We, the staff, would also like to thank Doris Thompson & Lola Jackson for being our judges. We also thank Lena Tucker for being our announcer for the pageant. A special thanks to Alicia Vaughn for making our crowns for the pageant winners.

The 2009-10 Princess & Brave winners are as follows; division 5-8, Averri Cotton & Xander Henry; division 9-11, India Samuel & Kameron Samuel.

Holiday Celebration

On Sept. 22, in accordance with American Indian Day, we served the members Indian Tacos. We, the staff, would like to thank parents Patricia Mingo & Deelenna Wallace for making fry bread for members. We would also like to thank parents Clara Jim & Melinda Wallace for celebrating the event with us. A special thanks to Doris Thompson for assisting us in making the celebration a success.

CONEHATTA UNIT

Happy Halloween
From Conehatta Boys &

..see CLUB NEWS, pg. 20

Susan Cosgrove, far right, from the MSU Extension Service speaks to 12-up members about money managing skills.

Winners of the 2009-10 Princess & Brave Pageant were Averri Cotton & Xander Henry (5-8 div.) & India Samuel & Kameron Samuel (9-11 div.).

Our 2009 Brave & Princess Pageant was a success & we want to take this opportunity to "thank" everyone who assisted us in our event. For making the beautiful crowns - Elise York, Rochelle Williamson & Alicia Vaughn; for allowing us to use the decorations - Vickie Billie; for use of the gym - Conehatta Recreation, Craig Bell & Gwen John; for judging the pageant - Darnell Willis & Janice Williamson; for participating in the pageant - Makala A., Kylie W., Malice W., Jaiden T., Taterrian A., Sylius T., Celeb W., Larena M., Leighanna T., Jayna T., Shamiaya A., Shaylene T., James G., Laraya M., Keaton T., Sharisha W., John H., & Shaylon F.; & last but not least, for getting your child ready & taking the time to show them you care - all the parents, grandparents & extended family.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE MISSISSIPPI
BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS
CONEHATTA UNIT
Princess & Brave
Pageant 2009
INDIAN

CLUB NEWS

continued from page nineteen

Girls Club

Teen Center

When we began our school session, we scheduled two "Teen Night-Pool Party". Our first pool party was held on Friday, Aug. 21. We invited Bogue Chitto Boys & Girls over & got rained out. Although we were rained out, we stayed at the club & watched movies, ate Indian Tacos, played games on the internet, played pool & foosball with our guests.

Our second "Teen Night-Pool Party" was scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 28. We had about 10 members to come to the community pool. They enjoyed swimming with our peers & eating hamburgers. Thanks "Chef Ron" for the delicious hamburgers.

The following "Teen Nights" are scheduled for October 16, 23, 30, November 6 & 20. Times are from 6 p.m.-9 p m.

HYLAC

We are counting on all our members to try to be on honor roll during one or all the nine-week sessions of school. Our first group of honor roll students (ages 10-18) during the first nine weeks are scheduled to go watch a play, "To Kill A Mockingbird", at the Riley Center in Meridian.

Each member who earns honor roll during each nine-week session will receive 25 points to use in the club store. Members also earn points for attendance, participation in special events, volunteering, & attending prevention programs offered at the club.

Torch, Keystone, Fan Clubs, Jr. Staff

The Jr. Staff, Torch, Keystone Club service project for the month of September was assisting in making the sashes & numbers for our annual Brave & Princess Pageant. They also assisted in setting up before & cleaning up after the pageant. Thank you from the staff. Your assistance was greatly appreciated.

The next club service project for the Jr. Staff & Keystone Club will be to host this year's Halloween Party for all members at the club. We will have a costume contest, dance, snacks, & bingo to name a few activities that are scheduled for the party.

Sparks, Fitness, Recreation

Members (ages 11-18) are scheduled to play in the Bogue Chitto Boys & Girls Club's one day volleyball tournament at their club on Monday, Oct. 12.

Art, Creative Expression

Mark your calendars parents! The art program will be hosting a Winter Art Show in December. When the event schedule is finalized, we will display flyers with the time & day of the event.

ARTS -N- CRAFTS
WEAVING AND MORE CRAFTS

Thank you to all members who took pride in displaying the creative works of Native American art during this year's Brave & Princess pageant.

Prevention

The prevention program is pleased to have Prevention Specialist Marquite Wilson of Choctaw Behavioral Health at our club. Marquita is teaching the members about the Bullying Prevention Program & the Life Skills Program. Thank you for assisting with the prevention program at our club.

BC Diamond Girls go undefeated, capture league championship

We would like to congratulate the players on their perfect winning softball season of 9-0 & winning the Choctaw Tribal League Championship in the 5-7 division. We are so proud of you! Players were Alize Billy, Tara Willis, Summer John, Brooklyn Dixon, Nichasie Smith, Whitney Willis, Averii Cotton, Kiara Cotton, & Breanda Ben. Head coach was Diamond Hundley. Assistant coaches were Shandra Hundley, DD, Magda Bell, & Orlando Dixon. Honorary coaches were all parents, Angela Hundley, Sammy Clemmons, & Lena Tucker. It was truly an exciting season to see all the players grow & mature in their softball skills. We especially appreciate the parents for being committed to supporting their child's efforts by being at all the games, encouraging your child & assisting in every aspect of this season. We thank you for allowing us to coach your child. We look forward to another exciting season with your child next year. - submitted by V. Diamond Hundley

GED tests will change in 2012

The General Education Development (GED) Testing Service of the American Council on Education announced the development of a new 2012 Series of the GED Tests, which will be released on Jan. 1, 2012.

The specifications for the GED Tests are assessed at regular intervals to certify that content reflects current curricular & academic standards for high school graduates across the U.S. & Canada.

As expectations & standards change for high school students, GED Testing Service aligns the tests with these same expectations & standards. The new 2012 Series GED Tests will reflect current curricular & academic standards for high school graduates.

All GED examinees should be advised that scores earned on the current 2002 or previous test will not be able to combine with those earned on the new 2012 Series GED Tests.

By Dec. 31, 2011, examinees must have taken & earned minimum scores on all five content area tests (Reading, Writing, Social Studies, Science, & Mathematics) & earned the minimum total score of 2250 (with a Standard Score of 450 in each subject), or they will need to take the entire 2012 Series test battery & begin the testing process over again with the new tests series.

For further information on class schedules, contact Choctaw Adult Education at 601-650-1756.

Choctaw Adult Education holds graduation ceremony

The Choctaw Adult Education Program held its annual General Education Development (GED) graduation exercises on Sept. 10, 2009, at the Silver Star Convention Center. This event commemorates the achievement, dedication, & diligence of the Adult Education students who worked to obtain their GED diplomas.

A GED diploma is the equivalent of a high school diploma & requires the same level of achievement. So, this accomplishment deserves a ceremony of celebration & recognition.

Graduates for 2008 & 2009 are: Heidi Billy, Matthew Brescia, Jonathan Cabrera, Anna Chickaway, Kalah Clemons, Amanda Dixon, Beth Frazier, Douglas Gross, Denina Henry, Boris Isaac, Clifton Jefferson, Vera Jefferson, Lacrisha John, Michael John, Kelseia King, Lasheena Lewis, Sunni Mingo, Randy Nickey, Twana Polk, Ronnie Reed, Jr., Jeris Shoemake, Kimberly Shoemake, Amy Sierra, Patricia Sockey Courtney Solomon, Deanica Solomon, Kristen Steve, Nyron Thomas, Marki Vaughn, Christian Williams, Coleman Willis, Tracy Willis, Misti York, & Iron Eyes York.

Graduates who participated in the event were treated to an evening of congratulations, celebration & encouragement. Guest speakers were: Chassidy Wilson for Education Committee Chairperson Roger Anderson; Tribal Education Services Officer Dalton Henry; Division of Adult

see GRADUATION, pg. 22

2008 & 2009 graduates of the Choctaw Adult Education Program

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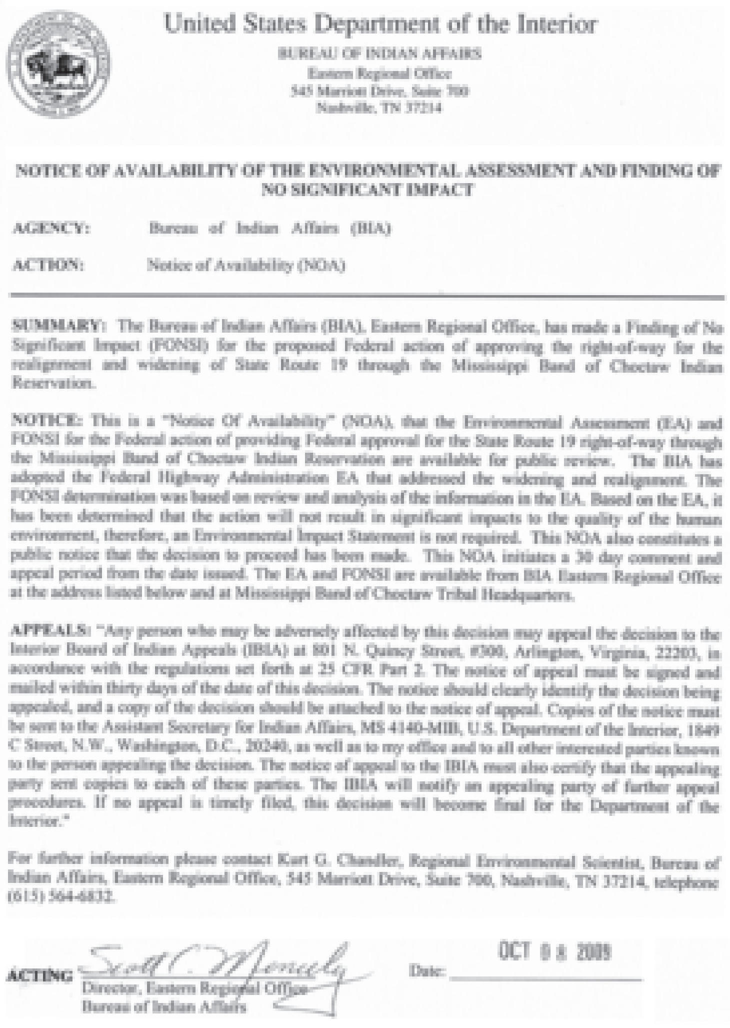
LETTERS FROM THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Eastern Regional Office
545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37214

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

ACTION: Notice of Availability (NOA)

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Eastern Regional Office, has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed Federal action of approving the right-of-way for the realignment and widening of State Route 19 through the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indian Reservation.

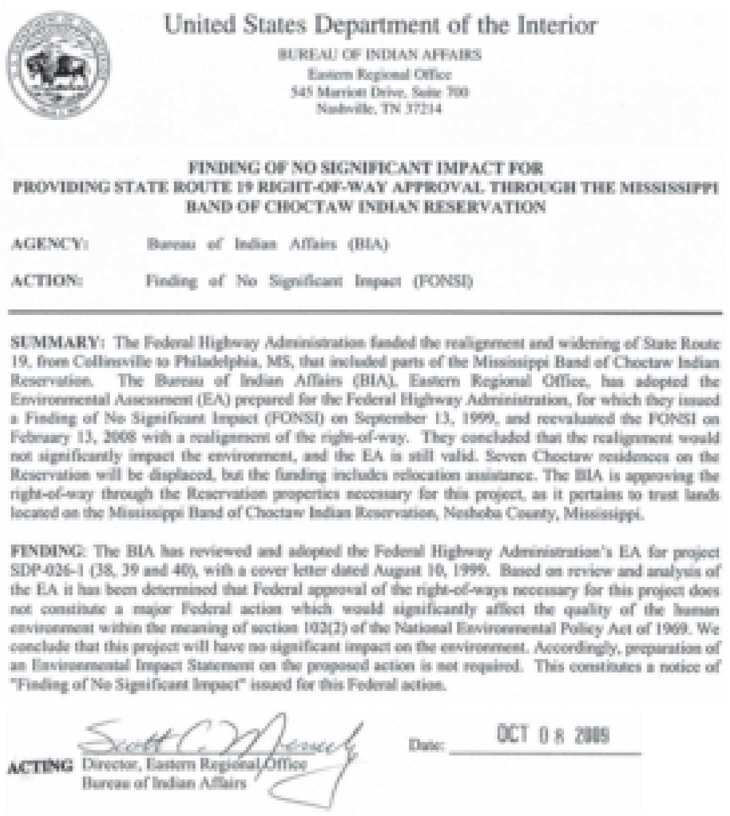
NOTICE: This is a "Notice Of Availability" (NOA), that the Environmental Assessment (EA) and FONSI for the Federal action of providing Federal approval for the State Route 19 right-of-way through the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indian Reservation are available for public review. The BIA has adopted the Federal Highway Administration EA that addressed the widening and realignment. The FONSI determination was based on review and analysis of the information in the EA. Based on the EA, it has been determined that the action will not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This NOA also constitutes a public notice that the decision to proceed has been made. This NOA initiates a 30 day comment and appeal period from the date issued. The EA and FONSI are available from BIA Eastern Regional Office at the address listed below and at Mississippi Band of Choctaw Tribal Headquarters.

APPEALS: "Any person who may be adversely affected by this decision may appeal the decision to the Interior Board of Indian Appeals (IBIA) at 801 N. Quincy Street, #300, Arlington, Virginia, 22203, in accordance with the regulations set forth at 25 CFR Part 2. The notice of appeal must be signed and mailed within thirty days of the date of this decision. The notice should clearly identify the decision being appealed, and a copy of the decision should be attached to the notice of appeal. Copies of the notice must be sent to the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, MS 4140-MIB, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20240, as well as to my office and to all other interested parties known to the person appealing the decision. The notice of appeal to the IBIA must also certify that the appealing party sent copies to each of these parties. The IBIA will notify an appealing party of further appeal procedures. If no appeal is timely filed, this decision will become final for the Department of the Interior."

For further information please contact Kurt G. Chandler, Regional Environmental Scientist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Regional Office, 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37214, telephone (615) 564-6832.

ACTING Director, Eastern Regional Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Date: OCT 08 2009



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Eastern Regional Office
545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37214

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR PROVIDING STATE ROUTE 19 RIGHT-OF-WAY APPROVAL THROUGH THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIAN RESERVATION

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

SUMMARY: The Federal Highway Administration funded the realignment and widening of State Route 19, from Collinsville to Philadelphia, MS, that included parts of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indian Reservation. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Eastern Regional Office, has adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the Federal Highway Administration, for which they issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on September 13, 1999, and reevaluated the FONSI on February 13, 2008 with a realignment of the right-of-way. They concluded that the realignment would not significantly impact the environment, and the EA is still valid. Seven Choctaw residences on the Reservation will be displaced, but the funding includes relocation assistance. The BIA is approving the right-of-way through the Reservation properties necessary for this project, as it pertains to trust lands located on the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indian Reservation, Neshoba County, Mississippi.

FINDING: The BIA has reviewed and adopted the Federal Highway Administration's EA for project SDP-026-1 (38, 39 and 40), with a cover letter dated August 10, 1999. Based on review and analysis of the EA it has been determined that Federal approval of the right-of-ways necessary for this project does not constitute a major Federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. We conclude that this project will have no significant impact on the environment. Accordingly, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed action is not required. This constitutes a notice of "Finding of No Significant Impact" issued for this Federal action.

ACTING Director, Eastern Regional Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Date: OCT 08 2009

GRADUATION .... continued from page twenty one

Learning & Rehabilitation Director Laura John; & Henderson Williams for Miko Beasley Denson.

Graduates were encouraged to continue their educations by taking advantage of the Tribal opportunities for higher education.

The Choctaw Adult Education Program staff expresses their sincere congratulations to all the graduates & encourage them to strive toward higher education. Staff members include: Director Laura John; Instructors Farrell Davidson, Richard Golden, Greta Monroe & Jennifer Thomas; Teaching Assistants Randy Farve, Jeri Gibson, Rosie Sorrells, & Mary Jane Willis; Child Care Providers Abbie Chapman & Shondria Chickaway; & Administrative Assistant Lucretia Wilson.

Achieving a GED diploma is an accomplishment that offers its recipients opportunities & choices that once didn't exist for them. Any Tribal member who needs a GED should call the Adult Education Program at 601-650-1756.

CHOCTAW WILDLIFE & PARKS DEPARTMENT HUNTING & FISHING SEASON 2009-2010

ARTICLE I: HUNTING, SEASON, LIMIT

HUNTING	SEASON	BAG LIMIT
(A) Bobwhite Quail	11/26/09 - 03/06/10	8/day; 16 poss
(B) Turkey, either sex *(Gobbler with 6 inch beard or longer)*	10/15/09 - 11/15/09	1/day; 3/fall season
Turkey, Gobblers only *(Gobbler with 6 inch beard or longer)*	03/13/10 - 05/02/10	1/day; 2/spring season
(C) Squirrel	10/17/09 - 02/28/10	8/day; 16 poss.
(D) Deer - either sex		

ALL BUCKS MUST BE 6 POINTS OR HIGHER DURING THE 2009-2010 SEASON.
Exception: Youth less than fifteen (15) years old may harvest one (1) buck with any hardened antler, regardless of number of points, inside spread, or beam length.
Bucks: Three (3) per season, one (1) per day.
Does: Eight (8) per season, one (1) per day; with an additional two (2) allowed with archery.

HUNTING	SEASON	BAG LIMIT
Archery Only	10/01/09 - 10/30/09	
Gun (without dog)	10/31/09 - 11/20/09	
Gun (with dog)	11/21/09 - 12/06/09	
Gun (without dog)	12/07/09 - 12/23/09	
Gun (with dog)	12/24/09 - 02/03/10	
Archery/Primitive Weapon	02/04/10 - 02/16/10	
(E) Rabbit	10/17/09 - 02/28/10	8/day;16 poss.
Cultural Rabbitstick with dogs	10/10/09 - 03/14/10	8/day;16 poss.
(F) Fox, Crow, Blackbirds	No Closed Season	No Limit
(G) Wild Hog	No Closed Season (No guns in October, Archery Only)	No Limit
(H) Opossum, Raccoon, Bobcat	10/01/09 - 02/28/10	No Limit
Raccoon Only	07/01/09 - 09/30/09	1/nightly; 2 poss.
(I) Frogs	04/01/10 - 9/30/10	25/nightly; 50 poss.
(J) Trapping	11/01/09 - 02/28/10	No Limit
1.2 DOVES	Follow Federal Regulation	
1.3 MIGRATORY BIRDS	Follow Federal Regulation	
1.4 FISHING	No Close Season	

THE FOLLOWING LIMIT & LENGTH WILL APPLY TO FISHING IN PONDS

5th Annual

Chahta Alla Osi
Toys for Tots

Charity Basketball Tournament

Friday, November 27, 2009
Pearl River Gymnasium

Saturday, November 28, 2009
CCHS Gymnasium

First Place - Jackets/Trophy
Second Place - Shirts/Trophy

Entry for tournament is a new toy donation (no minimum price limit) for teams & individuals. All toys donated will be given to children in need in all Choctaw Communities & foster children in the Children & Family Services Program.

Door prizes will be given every hour.
Concessions will be available.

For more information, contact
Sgt. Douglas Williams, Choctaw Police Department, at 601-663-7610 or
Amanda Frazier, Choctaw Detention Center, at 601-663-7936

Please Join Us in Recycling

submitted by the Choctaw Department of Public Works' Recycling Program

The Choctaw Department of Public Works' Recycling Program is requesting that all Tribal business enterprises, Tribal government offices in all departments and programs, and all Choctaw Indian Reservation households begin practicing recycling in order to help conserve energy and make good use of renewable resources. We are encouraging all eight Tribal communities to get involved.

At this time, our Department has the capacity to recycle paper products, as well as metal products. We are asking that everyone begin to separate reusable paper and metal materials and dispose of them in separate containers for collection and recycling.

For example, please put all paper trash in a separate container to itself for collection. This includes all paper trash, such as old newspapers, junk mail, used magazines, cardboard boxes, and other paper items.

Place all aluminum cans and other recyclable metal materials in a separate trash can to themselves.

By separating metal trash and paper trash for pick up, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and the Choctaw citizens of Mississippi can have a tremendous and highly positive environmental impact by enabling trash to be recycled and reused as other useful products.

Mixing all of these variable items of trash and debris and throwing them in landfills is not a green way to conserve valuable energy, and it is not the best way to treat Mother Earth. We should all be doing our part to recycle and make the best use of these renewable resources.

Choctaw Recycling will begin picking up separated items, as described above, and sending them to a major recycling plant. Please remember to separate and dispose of metal items and paper items in different, separate trash containers.

We are now working to expand our capacity to recycle glass items and plastic items, but are not yet ready to begin. We will keep you informed and let you know when we can also collect separated glass and plastic.

Thank you all for your help and cooperation with this very important conservation project.

LUNCH & LEARN

The Tribe's "Lunch & Learn" Program will take place on Tuesday, November 24 shortly after the noon hour in the Entertainment Trailer next to the Pearl River Amphitheater. This program is designed to educate you on your health and financial well being in these hard economic times. You'll learn how to save money and stay healthy. This program is absolutely FREE! So bring your LUNCH & LEARN.

TOPIC: TRACKING EXPENSES & MAKING A BUDGET

For more information, contact Rita Jones at 601-650-7449,
Darlene Willis at 601-656-2211,
Jim McAdory or Candy Jimmie at 601-656-2070.

SHIRLEY & MALCOLM'S SMOKE SHOP
105 Choctaw Town Center
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8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Drying flowers from your garden

by Wayne Porter, Area Horticulture Agent, Mississippi State University Extension Service - Meridian, Miss.

submitted by Jim McAdory, MSU Extension Agent, MBCI

There is a touch of fall in the air (finally). It is almost time to take a last look at the flowers in your garden. Before long the first frost will ruin the last of most of your beautiful blooms. However, if you want, you can continue enjoying some of this beauty during the dreary winter days. You can preserve some of the flower's summer beauty by drying them.

There are several methods used to dry flowers. They all begin with the same simple steps. First thing is to cut flowers in the morning after the dew has dried. Choose flowers that have just unfurled their petals. Select blooms that are without any insect damage or disease. Use sharp scissors or floral snips to cut the stems. Place the stems in a bucket with a little water in the bottom to keep the flowers fresh until you get them indoors.

The easiest and most common way to dry flowers (as well as ornamental grass and seed pods) is air drying. Hang these materials upside down in groups of 8 to 12 stems, in a warm, dry, area out of the sun with good air circulation. Flowers are ready to be used in two to three weeks when they are crisp. Air-drying works well for many flowers, such as: baby's breath, roses (although buds will close), hydrangeas, strawflower, yarrow, bachelor buttons, all ornamental grasses, and many herbs.

Flowers with lots of moisture in the petals such as sunflower, aster, zinnias black-eyed Susan, will dry better when placed in a desiccant (a substance that sucks the water out) than when air-dried. Using desiccants is better for maintaining a flower's natural shape and color.

Popular desiccants are silica gel, borax, and sand. Silica gel is a porous crystalline substance that absorbs moisture. This material will dry flowers quickly and will provide the highest quality of dried flowers. Silica gel can be purchased at most floral and craft stores. Silica gel crystals are expensive but may be used indefinitely. The crystals turn from bright blue to pinkish gray as they absorb moisture. They can be reused after drying in a shallow pan in a warm oven (250-275o F) for several hours or few minutes in a microwave oven.

Using borax for preserving flowers has an advantage in that the flowers hold their shape and shrinkage is minimal. Flower color remains fairly true to color except pinks and reds may vary. Also, if the flowers remain in borax too long, they become brittle and lose their petals. A mixture (1:1 up to 6 parts) borax and corn meal (white or yellow) or sand is generally recommended. The mixtures may be sifted, dried and used over and over.

Silica sand is very fine white sand that works similar to the silica gel. It is also sold in craft stores. A cheap alternative is to use play sand which is available in 50 pound bags at hardware stores. Sand is heavy and must be added gently when applying to the flowers.

To use a desiccating agent, start by spreading a layer of it in a shallow container with a tight fitting lid. The shape of the flower will determine how to arrange them for drying. Flowers with long stems can be placed flat on the surface. For large, flat flowers like sunflowers, cut the stem to a half inch and place this in

......see FLOWERS, pg. 24

FLOWERS .... continued from page twenty three

the sand or gel so the flower is facing up.

Next, pour the desiccating material along the outer edge of the container, away from the flower. After building up a continuous mound of about an inch, then tap lightly on the container to move the material to the flower. By doing this gradually, the material will not weigh down the petals as it would if just poured on top of the flower. Continue adding material and tapping on the container until the flower is completely covered. Be sure that an inch of the desiccant material is above the top of the flower.

Flowers in silica gel dry fast, often within a week. Borax combinations and sand will take two to four weeks to dry flowers thoroughly.

If this is too slow for you, consider putting the filled container in a microwave Make sure container is microwave safe! Microwaving time, depending on container size and flower type, is from 1 to 3 minutes. Put a container of water in the microwave along with the flowers to prevent excessive drying.

After cooking, leave the flower in the drying material for a period of 10 to 36 hours, again depending on the flower type. Experiment with a single flower first to determine the optimum microwaving times.

After the flowers are dry, carefully remove them from the drying agent and gently brush off remaining material with an artist's paintbrush. Experiment with plant materials and methods to find the drying process that works best for your situation.

There are many ways to use dried flowers. Use them in bouquets, as wreath decorations, holiday centerpieces, shadow boxes, and even fresh flower arrangements. Supplement your dried decorations with cones, pods, lichens, abandoned wasp nests, or moss for that woodsy, natural look. Store unused dried flowers in closed plastic bags to prevent possible infestation by insects.

Be creative! Do not limit your preserving experience to just flowers. Nature supplies a vast number of interesting shapes in twigs, seed pods, and leaves. Some suggestions are over-mature okra pods, iris and hibiscus seed pods, purple coneflower or rudbeckia seedheads and seedheads of ornamental grasses. Any dried plant material can add to an arrangement so do not overlook leaves with interesting shapes, sedges, grasses, or weeds. Happy drying!

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In Memory

W.C. TUBBY

Funeral services for W.C. Tubby, 85, were held Friday, September 11, 2009, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church in Choctaw. The Rev. Travis Willis & the Rev. Tim Tubby officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery with military honors. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Tubby passed away Sept. 7 in the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

Mr. Tubby was born May 16, 1924, to the late Henderson Tubby & Maggie Scott Tubby at the Old Indian Hospital in Philadelphia.

He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII & received an honorable discharge. He was married to the late Audie Mae Steve of Tucker & had eight children together. His family was the first family selected to relocate to Chicago, Ill., through the BIA Relocation Program in 1954.

Tubby returned to Mississippi in 1991 & worked for Tribal Maintenance Dept. until his retirement. He enjoyed fishing & spending time with his brothers, family & friends. He was a member of Hope Indian Baptist Church in Pearl River.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; sisters, Otis Tubby Ben, Gladys Mae Tubby Willis, & Martha Lee Tubby Davis; brothers, Eugene Tubby, Finis Tubby & James Harold Tubby; daughter, Roberta Tubby Parks; granddaughters, Robin Mae Tubby & Stephanie Parks; grandson, Bradley Zeman; great-grandsons, Brandon Edward Phillips & Kalem Hickman; & great-granddaughters, Justina Bridges & Kaelyn Hickman.

Survivors include his daughters, Betty Tubby Phillips, Eleanor Diane Tubby Taylor, both of Choctaw, & Rosemary Tubby Zeman of Lake Station, Indiana; sons, Steve Tubby, Rafael Dewayne Tubby,

..........continued next page

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Website coming soon - www.T-Ellis-Studio.com

Kenny Tubby, & Darron Tubby, all of Choctaw; 40 grandchildren; 68 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives & friends.

ROMA JOE BELL

Funeral services for Roma Joe Bell, 79, were held Monday, September 21, 2009, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. The Rev. Robert Paul Tubby Sr. officiated.

Burial was in the Sandy Hill Baptist Church Cemetery in Kemper County. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Bell passed away Sept. 19 in the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was Baptist by faith & attended Sandy Hill Baptist Church. She loved Choctaw hymn singing & enjoyed gardening, making Choctaw dresses, fishing, making hominy, & watching her grandchildren & great-grandchildren play.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jasper Joe & Sally Noah Joe; sons, Billy Bell, Jessie Bell & Nolan Bell, Sr.; sisters, Zula Bell & Lola Cotton; & brothers, Houston Joe, Watkin Joe, John Joe, & Noah Joe.

Survivors include three daughters, Hansy Bell, Glenda Bell & Janine Bell; two sons, Wendell Bell & Gerald Bell, all of Philadelphia; a sister-in-law, Hattie Joe of Choctaw; 23 grandchildren; & 26 great-grandchildren.

CLARA ANN ISAAC

Funeral services for Clara Ann Isaac, 54, were held Thursday, September 24, 2009, from the St. Therese Catholic Church in Choctaw. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in Isaac Cemetery in Pearl River. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Isaac passed away Sept. 20 in her home.

She enjoyed sewing & helped her mother care for numerous foster children. She was a member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker & made her home in Pearl River for the past ten years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Bill Farmer & Mamie Willis Farmer; & brothers, Grady Farmer, Raymond Farmer & Ardell Farmer.

Survivors include her husband, Edward Isaac; daughters, Carol Farmer & Danielle Davis; sons, Harold Farmer, Eric Davis & Derrick Davis; three stepchildren; sister, Minnie Farmer, all of Philadelphia; brother, James Farmer of Phoenix, AZ; seven grandchildren; an uncle & an aunt; foster sisters & brothers; & a host of nieces & nephews.

VICTOR MORRIS, SR.

Funeral services for Victor Morris, Sr., 51, were held Thursday, September 24, 2009, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto New Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Morris passed away Sept. 20 at his residence in Bogue Chitto.

A 1976 graduate of Choctaw Central, Morris was employed with Chahta Enterprise for the past 30 years.

He played football & baseball in high school & enjoyed playing stickball with Bok Cito. He was an avid outdoorsman, an Oklahoma Sooner football fan, & enjoyed spending time with his family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Champ Morris; sister, Charlotte Ann Farmer; infant daughter, Branna Wallace; paternal uncles, Lesley Morris & Chester Morris; & paternal aunt, Mazell Morris.

Survivors include his common-law wife, Brenda Wallace of Philadelphia; one daughter, Brandi Wallace of Philadelphia; three sons, Anzlum Parkerson of Carthage, VikBrendon Morris & Victor Morris Jr., both of Philadelphia; mother, Mary B. Morris of Philadelphia; six brothers, Louie Morris, Rodell Morris, Tom C. Morris, Eric Morris, Deric Morris, Jackie Morris, all of Philadelphia; two guardian brothers, Joey Morris of Philadelphia & Terry Kinsolving; three sisters, Trudy Jimmie, Barbara Amos, both of Choctaw, & Marcia Davis of Philadelphia; one guardian sister, Davita McClelland of Philadelphia; one paternal uncle, Prentiss Morris; three maternal aunts, Bessie Jim, Mable Jackson & Lucy Morris; two grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

CHARLES KEVIN MATHIS

Funeral services for Charles Kevin Mathis, 42, were held Friday, October 9, 2009, from the St. Therese Catholic Church in Choctaw. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the Holy Rosary Catholic Church Cemetery in Tucker. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Mathis passed away Oct. 6 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

He spent most of his life raising his family & working as a truck driver. He enjoyed entertaining family & friends, playing his guitar, listening to music on the radio, & playing stickball.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Josie & Maggie Steve; aunts, Ruby Chickaway & Vina Willis; uncles, Johnny Steve, Alfred Isom & Frank Steve; & several cousins.

Survivors include his father, Charles Frank Mathis; mother, Joan (Mathis) Steve, of Philadelphia; a daughter, Starlynn Chitto of Oklahoma;

see OBITUARIES, pg. 26

INFANT RAEKAYLA MARCIETTA WALLACE

Funeral services for infant RaeKayla Marcietta Wallace, 16 months-old, were held Tuesday, September 15, 2009, from the St. Therese Catholic Church in Choctaw. Father Bob Goodyear officiated.

Burial was in the Mt. Zion Cemetery in Carthage. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Infant Wallace, of Philadelphia, passed away Sept. 10 in the University Medical Center in Jackson.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandfather, George Polk Sr.; great-grandfathers, Sullivan Tubby Sr. & Rev. Frank Polk; great-grandmother, Minnie Polk; great-grandfather, Lincoln Wallace; great-grandmother, Samantha Wallace; & a great uncle, John Wallace.

Survivors include her parents, Audriana Polk & Moses Wallace; a brother, Aundray Wallace, all of Philadelphia; paternal grandparents, Angie Billy & Tracy Wallace of Philadelphia; maternal grandmother, Ezaline Polk of Philadelphia; great-grandparents, Mary Tubby, Lilly Billy & Collins Billy Sr., all of Philadelphia; five aunts; four uncles; a host of great aunts & uncles, cousins, & family.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The family of Rae-Rae would like to thank Choctaw Hospital, UMC Children Pediatric ICU staff, Choctaw Social Service, Choctaw Tribal Council representatives, Choctaw Police Department, St Therese's Catholic Church, Hope Baptist Church singers, Mt. Zion Baptist Church singers, & the Elderly Group singers

Special thanks to the Conrad Family, Martha Martinez, Randy Wallace, Collins Billy & family, Scottie Wallace & family, Lorenzo & family, Keishia Wallace, all the cooks, those who donated food & flowers in our time of grief, those who kept the fire going, & to all the people who aren't named for all the things they did to help us in our time of sorrow. We offer our sincere gratitude & appreciation to Collins Billy Jr. & family for all the help they had given us. Thanks to Juanita Trejo for all the help & making the flower arrangements for us.

We would also like to express appreciation & heartfelt thanks to the nursing staff of the 4th floor Children's Hospital at UMC for everything they did & gave to our little angel during her stay at the hospital. They adopted her & made her their baby as well.

OBITUARIES

continued from page twenty five

sons, Charles Dylan Mathis & Rateree Keith Mathis; a step-daughter, Mindy Lewis, all of Philadelphia; & a host of relatives & friends.

CAPT. MIKE O. WHITE

Funeral services for Capt. Mike O. White, U.S. Army (Ret.), 63, were held Saturday, October 10, 2009, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery with military honors. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Capt. White passed away Oct. 7.

He was a member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church.

Capt. White was born to Belinda Colbert & Nudy White in Talihina, Okla. He received his education at Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah, Okla., Business Administration from Central State University in Edmond, Okla., & Computer Science from Mississippi State University.

He enlisted with the U.S. Marine Corps in 1966 & was discharged in 1970. He later joined the U.S. Army Reserves & went to Officer's Candidate School & went on active duty in 1983. He retired after Desert Shield/Storm. He was awarded numerous awards & medals for his service.

He worked for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians as Choctaw Housing Authority Director, Property & Supply Inventory Coordinator, Choctaw Loan Program Director, and Tribal Veterans Coordinator.

Survivors include his wife, Gloria White; two daughters, Michelle Graham & her husband, Michael, & Sherri Ferguson; three grandchildren, Brittany Ferguson, Justina Graham & Joshua Graham; sisters, Vivian Nesheim of Little Rock, Ark., Mary Lou Ballard of Muskogee, Okla., & Julia Adams of Oklahoma City, Okla.; brothers, Douglas Colbert of Denver, Colo., & Otho Adams of Oklahoma City, Okla.; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

INFANT BRYSON MATEO OKCHALECHI WILLIS

Funeral services for Bryson Mateo Okchalechi Willis, 6 month old infant, were held Tuesday, October 13, 2009, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Infant Willis passed away Oct. 8 at the Neshoba County General Hospital in Philadelphia.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Sammy Clemons, Sr.; great-grandparents, Julia Faye (Isaac) Willis, Charlie & Ruth Hickman; great-great grandparents, Marshall Frazier, Archie & Emma Mingo, Byrd & Pauline Isaac, & Spinks & Susie (John) Willis.

Survivors include his parents, Tamara Willis & Dakota Clemons; sisters, Yasmine Billie, Dakyli Clemons, Channa Clemons, & Taylor Clemons; brothers, Zachary Billie, Jr. & Dantzler Clemons; grandparents, Carol Jim, Martin W. Willis, Sr., Brady & Sadie Hickman; great-grandparents, Martin Willis, Jimmie Lee Thomas, R.B. & Lorene Wallace; numerous aunts, uncles & relatives.

MITCHELL BELL

Funeral services for Mitchell Bell, 43, were held Tuesday, October 13, 2009, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Bell passed away Oct. 10 at his home.

Born in Neshoba County, he moved to Cleveland, Ohio & lived there for many years. He later moved back home to be closer to his family. Bell was a friendly person with an easy going personality.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Nervie & Lynch Bell; brothers, Jack Roger Bell & G.D. Bell; & sisters, Joan Holian & Maudine Bell.

Survivors include his common law wife, Gloria Wilson; sisters, Julie Bell of Senanaville, OH, Janell Grane of Bera, OH, Mae Bell of Cleveland, OH, Linda Alex of Choctaw, & Mary Anne Lewis of Walnut Grove; brothers, Mike Bell of Cleveland, OH & O'Neal Bell of Choctaw; several aunts, uncles, & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Belated 5th Birthday to my daughter Malayjiah Blaize Hinakbitipoli Hickman on Sept. 9. May God bless you & keep you safe. You're in our thoughts & prayers. Hope you come back soon. Your family misses you very much Chitto. With lots of hugs & kisses, from your mom Jonique, Grandma Chapman & especially from the Hickman family.

We wish a Belated Birthday to our son James E. Willis III who turned 2 on Sept. 28. from Mom Jonique & Daddy James Sr.

Happy Belated Birthday to DiJon M. Hickman "PJ" on Oct, 10, from Mom & the Hickman family.

Happy 1st Birthday to our son Josias Willis on Nov. 23. Love you lots baby boy, from Mom Jonique & Dad James Willis Sr.

Happy Birthday to my baby nephew Josias E. Willis "Be-Be Chitto" from Auntie Decemma.

Happy Birthday to my wonderful daddy James E. Willis Sr. on Nov. 30. Hope you have the best birthday ever. Don't over do it. From your son Josias Willis & your wife, Jonique.

Happy Belated Birthday to my cuz Tenaylea J. Mingo on Sept. 28. Hope you had a good one. From your favorite cuz Jonique.

We would like to wish Latina Hall, who's in Fla., a Happy 26th Birthday on Nov. 1, from all of us in MS - Dad, Steph, Justin, & of course Mina & Brannon. Happy Birthday Nina!

Happy Birthday to Tiana (Willis) on Oct. 6, Trista on Oct. 31 & Trelene on Nov. 5, from your families.

Happy Belated Birthday to Dee on Oct. 4, Tomechi on Oct. 5, Ken on Oct. 8, Levon on Oct. 20, & Amiya on Oct. 21.

Happy Birthday to Jonboy on Nov. 5, Daebreon on Nov. 15, Moss on Nov. 21, & Shanna on Nov. 24.

Happy Birthday to Ginger McMillan on the 8th, Ashley Martin on the 21st & Jeremy "Chocolate" Mingo on the 22nd for the month of Nov. From Hotel Housekeeping at Silver Star.

Happy Belated Birthday to Thomas Tullochik Osi Charlie on the 23rd & Patty Steve on the 30th of Sept., also to Mr. Dallis Steve Sr. on Oct. 14, from your loving family.

Happy Belatec Birthday to Melissa Jim on Oct. 10 & Jonathan "Chub" Wesley on Oct. 10, from Mark & Loretta Thomas, Ashanti.

Happy Belated Birthday to Deborah Bell on Sept. 11, Sadie Hickman on the 15th & Judy Isom on the 19th of Sept... Happy Belated Birthdays to the following people for Oct. - Paul ray Gibson on the 7th, Tiffany Jackson on the 13th, Rosie York on the 16th, Rose Clemons the 18th, Vaughnie Willis on the 19th, Kendra Sam 23rd, Stacy Dixon 26th, & Julie Shoemake on the 31st. From the associates at Silver Star.

Happy Belated Birthdays to my baby son, Brett Hickman, on Sept. 1, my granddaughter Malayjiah B. Hickman on Sept. 9, my grandson James Willis III on Sept. 28, & my great nephew Jayden Shumake on Sept. 23... Happy Belated Birthdays to my son DiJon M. Hickman on Oct. 10, my daughter Jonique B. Hickman on Oct. 19, my great friend & niece Arlene F. Tubby on Oct. 13, & my great nephew Harrison Johnson III on Oct. 13... Happy Birthdays to my adorable, handsome grandson Josias Willis on Nov. 22 & my nephew Kevin Cotton on Nov. 9. God bless each of you all of the years He's given. Love always, Mom, Grandmom, Aunt, & Great-Aunt.

Happy 12th Birthday to Vinshayden Kiana Smith on Nov. 19 & 11th to Rozlind Mystical Smith on Nov. 7. My babies are too soon becoming teenagers! Keep up the hard work & know that we are always proud of you. May you achieve all of your dreams. Love you two always. From Mom, your lil brother & sisters, Grandma Bea, Auntie Sissy, Uncle Bruce, & the rest of the family.

Happy Birthday to Kaylan Gibson, who turns 14 on Nov. 8, from your Daddy, Grandpa & Grandma King, & the rest of the family. "We love you!"

Hapy Birthday to Judith Wesley, who turns ??, on Nov. 21, from Community Health.

Happy 1st Birthday to HL'UA Tristan Bell on Nov. 29, from everyone who loves you!

Happy Birthday to Yolanda La'Gayle Willis on Oct. 19. From your Daddy. I love you & miss you. I hope you have a wonderful birthday.

Happy Belated Birthdays to Brian "Ochi" Dixon, who turned 7 years old on Sept. 4, & to my husband, Eric D. Jackson, who turned 35 on Oct. 8. from your wife, April, & the kids, Isiaha & Brian. We love you!

Happy Belated Birthday to Samuel Deshaun Tubby on Sept. 5, from your Aunt Erica... Happy Belated Birthday to Kanyon Tubby on Sept. 20, from your mom, LaDainian & Davian... Happy Belated Birthday to Day'Rean Tubby on Sept. 24, from your Auntie Erica...Happy Belated Birthday to Jermaine T. Mingo on Oct. 29, from your Aunt Erica... Happy Birthday to Breanne Mingo on Nov. 22, from your Aunt Erica, LaDainian & Davian.

Happy 74th Birthday to Susanna Rose Shoemake

..................................**see BIRTHDAYS, page 28**

Happy Belated 18th Birthday to Miss Kelley 'Kenae' Sockey on Oct. 30. With lots of love from Mom, Andrew, Shena, the rest of the family, & your friends.

Look who's turning 3!
"Ms. Faith"
Happy Birthday to our little princess on Nov. 13. We love you Baby Girl. With lots of hugs & kisses from Mommy, Daddy, Mamo & Papo Solomon, Mamo Lewis, Sabby, Grandpa Thomas, & your aunties & uncles.

LOOK WHO TURNS 2!
Happy Belated Birthday to Tracell Mae King on Sept. 28. Tracell celebrated her birthday at Chuck-E-Cheese & at the zoo. You are a gift from God. Keep smiling & we love you very much, from Mom & Dad & the rest of the families & friends.

Happy 24th Birthday to Cheriena Brooke Ben. Love, Mom, Iyley Teal, Koi James, Ira Lee, Noah Hayes, Cyrus, TaRita, & Brodie Ben.

Happy 9th Birthday Averii!
With lots of love from your sissy, Aubree.

Happy Birthday to my sons, Rick Shaun Isaac, left, who will be 4 years old on Nov. 10 & to John Edward Willis III, who will be 8 years old on Nov. 16. Lots of love from Mom, your brother Maverick & your sisters Linda, Olivia, Melody, & Bethany.

BIRTHDAYS .... continued from page twenty seven

(a.k.a. SueWee) on Oct. 23, from Geronimo Shoemake, Shawn Shoemake, Josh Jr., & Nina Anderson... Happy Belated 1st Birthday to Joshua McMillan Jr. on Sept. 25, 2009, from Mommy, Daddy, Sue Wee, Geronimo, & the rest of the family. We love you Big Boy... Happy Birthday to my girlfriend Sunshine Anderson, from "Imo".

Happy 47 Birthday to our Dad on Nov. 1 & 39th Birthday to our Mom on Nov. 22. We love yall! From Wade, Lana, Bobo, & Renzo... Happy Birthday to my Papo on Nov. 1 & my Mamo on Nov. 22. I love yall, from Maeli Sade.

Happy 32nd Birthday to my mom Virginia Rose York on Oct. 28. Have a happy & wonderful birthday. Love you, from Anakin York!

Happy Belated Birthday to my Grandma Ezaline Polk on Sept. 25. Happy Birthday! From Anakin York! Also, Happy Belated Birthday to Great-Grandma Mary S. Tubby, from Rose & Anakin York!

Happy Birthday to Lashaunya Steve (a.k.a. Mrs. Price) on Nov. 5 & to Patricia "Tesha" Mingo (a.k.a. Mrs. Old Skool) on Nov. ??... Also, Happy Birthday to Jeremy Mingo on Nov. ??. Don't over do it!

Happy Belated 2nd Birthday to Eladia Pisa Achuma Martinez, with lots of love from Mom, Dad, Shay, Orieon, Sissie, Uncle Zack, Cousin Steven, Daniella, & Eric & Sarah Dixon & family.

Happy Belated 6th Birthday on Oct. 24 to Sissie "Sweetie" Gibson. We love you. Love from Mom, Shay, Orieon, Ladia, Uncle Zack, Steven, Daniella, & all the family.

IN LOVING MEMORY & HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MS. EVALINE GIBSON ON NOV. 16. To our mother & sister - you will never be forgotten. we sit here wishing you a Happy Birthday. You are in our hearts. We love you Mom. Love - Crystal Gibson, Shay, Orieon, Sissie, Eladia, Zachary Gibson, Steven, Daniella, Eric & Sarah Dixon & family, Monica Sockey & boys, Blanche, & Gabby.

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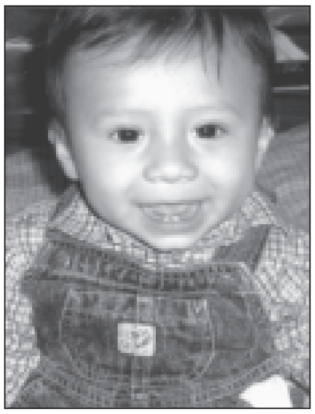
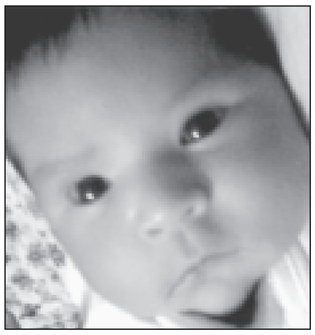
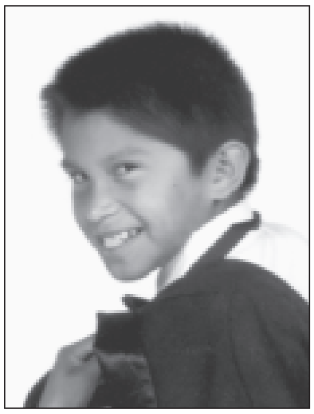


LEFT, Happy 2nd Birthday to Zander on Nov. 6. From Daddy, York, Lewis, Frazier, Cravatt, & the rest of the family.

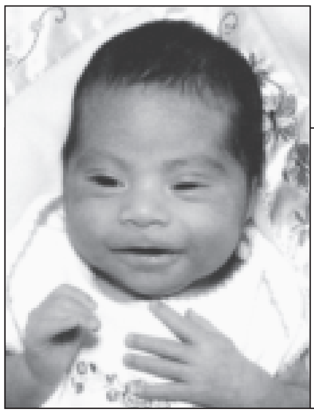


Congratulations to Alex Frazier & Lee Cravatt on the birth of their newborn baby girl, Alexiana Iris Frazier, born Aug. 11, 2009, weighing in at 8 lbs., 4 ozs. From York, Cravatt, Lewis, Frazier, & from your older brothers Trevor, Trenton, Bishop, Cameron, & Zander. Welcome home sister!

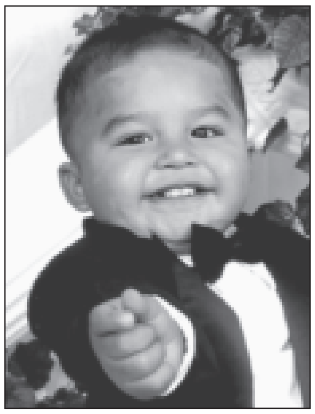
Guess who this "Yolkon Cito is? His birthday is on Oct. 27 & will be 22 years old. Happy Belated Birthday "Yolkin Cito." We all love you & God bless you Nigel. From all of the Allen Families, Mom, Gizmo, aunt & uncles, & cousin.



Happy Birthday to Deric W. Sam Jr. on Nov. 17. Wishing you a sweet birthday.



TO OUR SON ASTIN



It's your second birthday, baby, two candles on your cake. Proud parents stare in wonder at each new move you make. We join in celebration, as this special date arrives; for baby has brought pleasure into all our lives. We look forward now to seeing how you progress & grow, from the cute & tiny infant you once were, to the big guy you are. So dig into your icing, enjoy your presents too. The reason for this day is a special person - you!

Happy Birthday Astin! Love Mommy, Daddy, Papaw, & family.

IT'S A GIRL! *We welcome into our family Ms. Daphne LeAnne Joy Willis, pictured left, born on Sept. 1 to Andrea Thomas & Ronald K. Willis. Daphne is the granddaughter of the late Julia Faye (Isaac) Willis & Martin Willis and the great-granddaughter of the late Byrd Isaac & the late Pauline Jim Hall Isaac. Welcome home baby girl.*

Happy Holidays

Courtesy of
Tribal Miko Beasley Denson & First Lady Lena Denson
Members of the Choctaw Tribal Council
2009-2010 Choctaw Indian Princess Famie Willis
Members of the Tribal Administration

200910 Choctaw

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS
1945

FROM THE OFFICE OF MI̱KO BEASLEY DENSON

Beasley Denson

About December Distribution

On November 12th, Tribal Council voted to approve the semi-annual distribution to Tribal members. As usual and on schedule, the semi-annual distribution will be made on December 1st. Checks will be handed out at the Silver Star Convention Center from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Checks not picked up will be mailed.

Not “as usual” are the economic circumstances surrounding this distribution. As everyone who has seen a television or read a newspaper knows, our country is still suffering through the worst economy since the Great Depression. And although there are signs of a recovery ahead, (the economy is now growing again for the first time in more than a year, property values are stabilizing and the Dow Jones Industrial Average has risen above 10,000) budgets are still extremely tight for states, businesses, organizations and Tribes across the United States. Unemployment is in double digits and the foreclosure and mortgage default rates are still at staggering levels.

Our Tribe, while fairly diversified in its sources of revenue, still primarily depends on our casinos to fund Tribal government and distribution. Our Resort customers, like people across the country, have found themselves without the disposable income they had prior to September of last year. This lack of disposable income is forcing casinos from Las Vegas to China to struggle to stay in the black.

Navigating this poor economy has been especially difficult for our Tribe and Pearl River Resort because of the Golden Moon. Since its opening, the Resort has never once generated the profit that the Silver Star did when it operated as a stand-alone property.

The Golden Moon has placed an enormous strain on Resort earnings since it opened in 2002 and, to finance its construction, the Tribe entered into a loan agreement with very restrictive terms. These disadvantageous terms have created a situation where the Resort is prohibited from making adequate payouts to the Tribal government. This restriction is especially difficult in tough times.

Since we rely on Resort revenue to make distributions, a bad national economy requires Tribal government and Resort leadership to be creative and determined to make the numbers work. Fortunately, our plan to turn the Resort around is working.

Closing the Golden Moon during the week has stemmed the losses and the restructuring done by management has put our enterprise in a much better situation than almost all other casinos. Most importantly, we did this without cutting a single Tribal member’s job. And we are still negotiating and searching for ways to change the structure of our debt to take back control of our economic destiny from the banks.

I have been away from the Reservation much more than I would like in pursuit of this financial self determination for our Tribe but it is critical to Tribal members and for the financial health of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians that we improve the terms and interest rate charged on the money the Tribe owes to the banks.

In the past, the Tribe borrowed additional money against the original loan to make distributions. My administration will not do that. Distributing borrowed money puts us in a deeper hole. We will be able to make this December distribution because of good decisions, careful planning and conservative revenue estimates.

I appreciate the Tribal Council members and staff who have helped in this regard. Leading in a good economy when coffers are full is easy to do. Leading when times are lean is very difficult and requires creativity, courage and the ability to make tough decisions.

I know how much Tribal members depend on the distributions. I promise that I will always do everything in my power to see that it happens and that we do it in a way that doesn’t jeopardize the Tribe’s future financial situation. Yakoki.

..........continued next page

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

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P. O. BOX 6010
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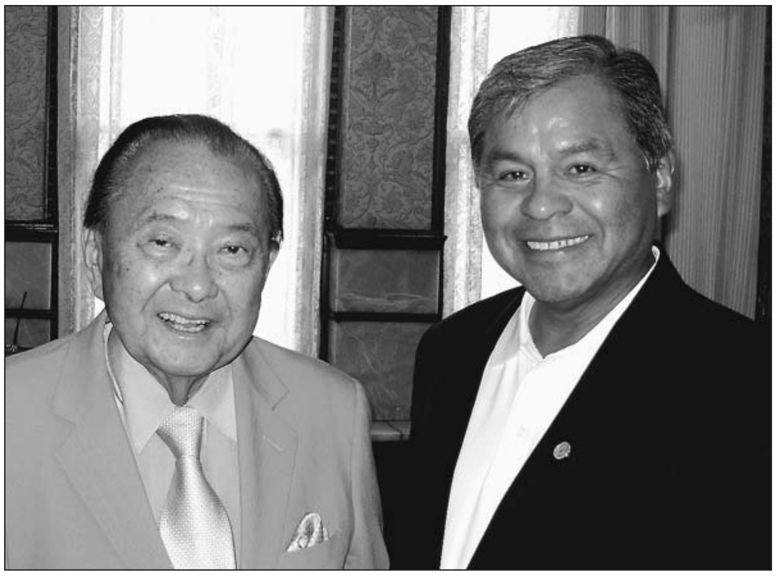
Melford Farve .... Communications Officer
Brian C. Willis .... Communications Editor
Kathie Henry .... Communications Assistant
Bradley Isaac .... Communications Assistant
Stephanie Farmer .... Communications Assistant

Items of interest to the local & Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY 2010 ISSUE IS FRIDAY, DEC. 4, AT 12 NOON.

THE CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS IS NOW ONLINE AT WWW.CHOCTAW.ORG

Choctaw Tribal Council members attending the USET 40th Anniversary Celebration in Hollywood, Fla., were, from left, Vice-Mi̱ko Harrison Ben (Standing Pine), Troy Chickaway (Conehatta), Myrtle Ben (Red Water), Ann Wesley (Crystal Ridge), Mi̱ko Denson, Secretary-Treasurer Lola Parkerson (Pearl River), Dorothy Wilson (Tucker), Ronnie Henry Sr. (Bogue Chitto), & Peter Steve (Tucker).



Prior to the White House Tribal Nations Conference, Mi̱ko Beasley Denson speaks with Senator Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii about the financial future of Indian Country.

USET 40th Anniversary

I was very proud of our Tribe's performance at USET's 40th anniversary. See the article on pages 5-7 for details. I am glad we had an opportunity to honor and thank the founders of USET - Emmett York, Betty Mae Jumper, Buffalo Tiger & Walter Jackson. Indian Country, not only Tribes from the South and East, is in their debt.

USET has become a respected institution. But even with its strength on Capitol Hill and across the country, it is important that we continue to push to empower ourselves.

Thank you to Elsie Farve, Lane Denson, Elter Wilson, Elijah Ben, Dorothy Wilson and the Chata Hiłha Social Dancers, Choctaw Princess Famie Willis, Martha Ferguson, Martha Spencer, the Choctaw Museum, Gary Chickaway and Choctaw Tribal Maintenance, Karl Butler, Randy Jim and Sonja Monk. They did a great job.

Through their work, our Tribe made a lasting impression and I was extremely proud of the way we represented Choctaw culture to the other Tribes in attendance.

White House Tribal Nations Conference

On Thursday, November 5th, 2009, President Obama hosted the White House Tribal Nations Conference. It was an effort to begin making good on the promises he made to Indian Country during his campaign.

The conference gave the 564 federally recognized tribes the opportunity to interact directly with the President and representatives from the highest levels of his Administration. Each Tribe was invited to send a representative and close to 400 attended.

I was very impressed with the Obama Administration's outreach to the First Americans. Indian Country played a significant role in his election and, while on the campaign trail, Senator Obama actively courted us and made several commitments to us.

The White House Tribal Nations Conference was one of those commitments and I'm glad he followed through on it. He also promised to appoint high level liaisons to Indian Country and he has done so.

Larry Echo Hawk of the Pawnee Nation is the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior and Kimberly Teehee, an Oklahoma Cherokee, serves as Native American policy advisor.

Senator Obama told us the relationship between the United States and Indian Country during his administration would be a "nation to nation" relationship and it seems as President he is serious about that.

No one thought that a new administration was going to come into office and magically all broken treaties would be mended and all federal obligations to Tribes would be met but we have seen good signs from this President.

I am pleased that he appears to be making good on his promises and I take him at his word when he says that the Tribal Nations Conference would serve as the start of an ongoing conversation and an "agenda of

............see LETTER, pg. 4

Choctaw Tribal Council resolution summaries

The following ordinances & resolutions were submitted to the Tribal Council for consideration. The following is a brief summary & action taken. If you're interested in seeing the full text, visit the Offices of the Choctaw Tribal Council in Choctaw, or talk with your local representatives.

Regular Meeting,
October 13, 2009

Resolution CHO 10-001(B), confirming the appointment of Joshua Breedlove as Director of the Department of Health, was adopted 14 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-002, approving appointments to the Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise Board of Directors, was adopted 10 in favor, 5 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-003, appointing members to the First American Printing and Direct Mail Enterprise Board of Directors, was adopted 14 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-004, confirming appointments of members to the Choctaw Tax Commission, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-005, appointing members to the Tribal Enrollment Committee, was adopted 13 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-006, appointing Wanda McMillan to the Board of Directors of Choctaw Construction Group, Inc., was adopted 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-007(B), authorizing the sale of an isolated parcel of Choctaw Reservation land consisting of 7.56 acres presently leased to Pharma Pac, LLC in Kemper County, Mississippi in accordance with the Land Consolidation Act Plan of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, was adopted 9 in favor, 6 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-008, authorizing removal and disposal of a mobile home in the Bogue Chitto Community, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-009, authorizing the sale of a Tribal Housing Rental Program mobile home to Johnny Osceola, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-010, approving expenditure plan for Forest Management Deductions, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-011, approving a Memorandum of Understanding between Mississippi State University and Choctaw Division of Schools, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution Cho 10-12(B), approving change in last name for previously enrolled Tribal member, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-13(B), approving Tribal enrollments, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-014, authorizing removal & disposal of a mobile home in the Standing Pine Community, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Bibles presented to Mi̱ko, Vice-Mi̱ko

Brother Raymond Johnson presented Mi̱ko Beasley Denson and Vice-Mi̱ko Harrison Ben with the English/Choctaw Parallel Bibles at Choctaw Missionary Baptist Church in the Standing Pine Community on Sept 24. Pictured from left are Brother Gerald Willis, church member Lisa Willis, Tribal First Lady Lena Denson, Brother Raymond Johnson, Mi̱ko Denson, & Vice-Mi̱ko Ben. The Choctaw Missionary Baptist Church is currently selling Choctaw-English Parallel Bibles. If you are interested in purchasing a Bible or for more information, contact Bro. Gerald Willis at 601-663-9558. A leather bound Bible is $50 & imitation leather bound Bible $25.

NEWS FROM THE Pearl River Resort®

Choctaw, MS

Accused embezzlers indicted

Two former Pearl River Resort employees each face up to 20 years in prison and up to $1 million in fines after being charged in two unrelated incidents under a section of federal law that is specifically tailored to protect tribal gaming entities.

Nicholas Leflore, 30, of Carthage, and Natasha Bell, 26, of Philadelphia, Miss., were arraigned Oct. 20 in federal court in Jackson. Both were indicted by a federal grand jury and are accused of embezzling with the intent of stealing.

Leflore was a blackjack dealer at the Silver Star and Bell was a cage cashier at the Golden Moon. Lefore's trial date has been set for Nov. 23, while Bell's trial date is scheduled Nov. 30.

"These indictments demonstrate the reliability of the recently enhanced surveillance system and more stringent security measures in our renewed commitment to stop employee theft," said Surveillance Executive Director John Walker.

LETTER ....continued from page three

consultation" between the Federal government and Indian Country.

40th Anniversary of the Kennedy Report

Before the Tribal Nations Conference I was asked to speak at a gathering of elected officials and Tribal leaders at a reception commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Kennedy Report on Indian Education.

The reception was hosted by the Three Affiliated Tribes, USET and the National Alliance to Save Native Languages. We gathered to urge Congress to complete the unfinished business of the Special Senate Sub-Committee on Indian Education.

The Kennedy Report was written in 1969, and entitled "Indian Education: A National Tragedy A National Challenge." It wisely recommended increased Indian control over education. Up until the report, the federal government's policies had disastrous effects on the education of Indian children.

The object was assimilation rather than preservation of cultural identities and that posture led to a very high dropout rate, low achievement and academic failure for many Indian children.

Chairman Byron Dorgan of the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski, New Mexico Senator Tom Udall, Hawaii Senator Daniel Akaka, Representatives John Lewis of Georgia, Betty McCollum of Minnesota, Tom Cole of Oklahoma and Patrick Kennedy of Rhode Island attended and urged Indian country to celebrate the victories in Indian education but to push and fight for equality of educational opportunity for all Indian children.

Mi̱ko Denson, left, & Vice-Chief Larry Blythe of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians spoke at a gathering of Tribal leaders marking the 40th anniversary of the Kennedy Report on Indian Education.

In 1969, when Ted Kennedy assumed Chairmanship of the Senate Special Subcommittee on Indian Education, I was 20 years old and a graduate of Choctaw Central. I would eventually earn my bachelor's degree at Mississippi State University. In those days, my situation was rare. Too many tribal students spent their lives in boarding schools, far from their families, their language and their communities.

Ted Kennedy was right when he said the federal government's policies guiding Indian Education were a "national tragedy and national disgrace."

Historically, American Indian education policies have been a weapon of isolation and assimilation to destroy tribal sovereignty and Indian culture. But, with the publication of the Kennedy report, there was a new recognition that we had something worthwhile to say about the education of our children.

The Kennedy Report marked a turning point – federal leaders began to listen and consult with Tribes instead of dictating the rules.

The Kennedy legacy is obvious today in the Head Start centers throughout Choctaw and other communities across Indian Country. From bilingual education to improved cultural awareness, we've made significant progress in the last 40 years. But if Robert and Ted Kennedy were here with us today, they'd be the first ones to say that we have more to do. We cannot settle for "some" progress. Our children deserve more than "good enough."

I will remain committed to seeing that our Tribe delivers an education that opens the doors of opportunity for every Choctaw child.

Beasley Denson,
Tribal Mi̱ko

Tribal delegation attends USET's 40th anniversary celebration

The United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET), a non-profit, inter-tribal organization collectively representing its member Tribes at the regional and national level, celebrated its 40th year anniversary during the annual Board of Directors meeting Oct. 26-29, 2009, at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, Florida.

The event was hosted by the founding tribes of USET - the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson led the Choctaw delegation as they honored the late Chairman Emmett York and Chief Phillip Martin for their involvement with the establishment of USET and the service they provided for the organization.

Both York and Martin served a term as USET President; York served from 1970-1971 and Martin 1971-1972.

In a luncheon hosted by the Tribe, the delegation presented the culture and traditions of the Choctaws to hundreds in attendance at the Hard Rock Live venue on Oct. 27.

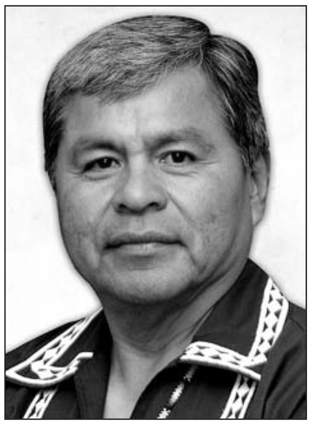
A parade of participants entered the venue led by flag bearers Peter Steve and Rhea Ann Thomas. Along with Mi̱ko Denson and family were the families of Chairman York and Chief Martin, reigning Choctaw Indian Princess Famie Willis, Choctaw Tribal Council members, Tribal administration, and the Chata Hiłha Social Dancers.

Tribal Archivist Sonja Monk served as

...........see USET CELEBRATION, pg. 6

LEFT, *From left are Mi̱ko Denson, former USET President Keller George (1994-2006) & Peter Steve, Choctaw Tribal Council-Tucker.* **RIGHT**, *Representing the family of the late Chairman Emmett York were, seated, William "Sonny" York; standing from left, Gloria York, Lari York, Stella Willis, Bianca York Crockett, & Shirley Kyle.*

MI̱KO DENSON ON USET'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY



"Forty years ago the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians joined with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida to form the tribal alliance we now call the United South and Eastern Tribes. We did so to give voice to the concerns of Native Americans living east of the Mississippi River. At that time the area agency in Oklahoma paid little attention to southern and eastern tribes. For them Indian Country was west of the Mississippi. That is no longer the case. And the elimination of that mindset at BIA has allowed USET's mission to expand and allowed the organization to grow in reach and influence.

There have been many changes in Indian Country since 1969. USET has become an institution and a respected one. Today, USET is 25 tribes strong. But even though we have increased our membership and strength on Capitol Hill and across the country, it is important that we continue to push to empower ourselves.

The 40th anniversary was a great event. I am most happy that we had an opportunity to honor and thank the venerable leaders and founders of USET - Betty Mae Jumper, Buffalo Tiger, Emmett York and Walter Jackson. All Tribes are in their debt, not only those in the South and East. As USET pushes to make life better and strengthen Tribal governments in our region, all Tribal governments benefit. USET has always been blessed with strong leadership and each one has moved us closer to where we want to be as an organization.

Our Tribe was well represented in Hollywood. I was extremely proud of the way we represented Choctaw culture to the other Tribes in attendance. I have to thank Elsie Farve and Lane Denson for all their work coordinating the various elements. Elter Wilson and Elijah Ben did an excellent job putting together our program. As usual Dorothy Wilson and the Chata Hiłha Social Dancers gave outstanding performances including versions of the Corn Dance, three War Dances, the Tick Dance and the Traditional Choctaw House Dance as well as performing a Choctaw Wedding Drama.

Thank you to our princess Famie Willis for the Nanih Waiya Mound monologue and for singing the national anthem in Choctaw. It sounded beautiful. Martha Ferguson, Martha Spencer, the Choctaw Museum and Gary Chickaway and Choctaw Tribal Maintenance were all critical to the effort as well.

Karl Butler and Randy Jim worked hard on the "Choctaw Hands" video and captured the event for posterity. Karl also created the much complimented video of USET archival footage. Sonja Monk did a great job emceeing. Overall, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians really made their mark on the event."

USET CELEBRATION

....continued from page five

emcee as Choctaw Indian Princess Famie Willis sang the National Anthem in Choctaw and gave the invocation.

"Yakoki - Seminoles, Miccosukees, Cherokees - for a successful celebration. Thank you to the rest of the member tribes as we enjoy and share with our past leaders an organization that united us for common purposes and the common good for our people," said Denson. "Today's celebration is a mark of success tribes have put together - a united front to make this organization an institution. It's a 40-year old organization that has spoken for the Tribes."

LEFT, *Providing the narration for the social dances was reigning Choctaw Indian Princess Famie Willis.*

Representing the family of Chief Phillip Martin were, from left, Deborah Lewis, Patricia Gibson with grandson Iverson (seated), Shirley Berg, Bea Carson, & Graham Lewis

The Chata Hiłha Dance Group re-enact a Choctaw Wedding.

Natasha Phillips, on behalf of Chief Martin who was unable to attend, spoke of Martin's belief stressing the value and importance of USET, particularly in protecting Tribal sovereignty and continued advocacy of Indian Self-Determination.

"One of the greatest accomplishment he (Martin) is most impressed is on the fact that this 40-year old organization became the best Indian regional organization respected by Congress and other federal agencies," said Phillips.

The celebration also featured the Chata Hiłha Social Dancers and a viewing of a video highlighting the Choctaw's recent successes.

A presentation of a Choctaw Wedding was re-enacted. Princess Famie Willis then provided a historical monologue of the Nanih Waiya Mound then read the tribal proclamation declaring Nanih Waiya Day a Choctaw holiday.

A special viewing of *Choctaw Hands* featuring USET archival footage concluded the event.

Under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, Community Action Agencies were established across the country. As a result, Community Action Programs (CAP) were started at Seminole, Choctaw, Cherokee, and Miccosukee.

In 1968, CAP directors at these tribes - Savannah Bigwitch (Cherokee), Dr. J. W. Rehbein (Miccosukee), Phillip Martin (Choctaw), and Horst Grabs (Seminole) - discussed the need to pool their resources, improve their respective programs, and have more influence on the federal government.

They arranged a meeting at the Cherokee Tribe on Oct. 4, 1968. A Declaration of Unity was signed to establish United Southeastern Tribes by Cherokee Principal Chief Walter Jackson, Miccosukee Chairman Buffalo Tiger, Choctaw Chairman Emmett York, and Seminole Chairwoman Betty Mae Jumper.

Incorporated in 1969, United Southeastern Tribes operated first out of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, then moved to Sarasota, Fla. In 1975, it relocated again to Nashville, Tenn., where it resides today.

The organization changed its named in 1978 to United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. to better reflect its membership, as federally recognized Tribes from Maine, to Florida, to Texas affiliated themselves with the organization.

Today, USET has grown to include 25 federally recognized Tribes. In addition to the founding tribes, USET includes the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, Seneca Nation of Indians of New York, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, St. Regis Band of Mohawk Indians, Penobscot Indian Nation, Passamaquoddy Indian Township, Passamaquoddy Pleasant Point, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, Tunica-Biloxi Indians of Louisiana, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Narragansett Indian Tribe, Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Oneida Indian Nation, Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians, Catawba Indian Nation, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut, Cayuga Nation, and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

Information provided by the USET 40th Anniversary commemorative publication

Members of the Chata Hiłha Dance Group are, kneeling, chanter Bruce Jim; second row from left, Kathie Henry, Marion Williams, Patricia Willis, Nastassija Lyons, Rhea Ann Thomas, Brenda Joe, Daphne Anderson, Sally Willis, Trina Jim, dance group coordinator Dorothy Wilson; back row, Angelo Bell, Andrew Isaac, Elliott Johnson, Johnathan Joe, John Levi Bell Jr., Patrick Willis, Thaddeus Hickman, Darry Henry, & Eddie Joe.

HONORING PAST USET PRESIDENTS (CHOCTAW)

Emmett York

Phillip Martin

The following was included in the USET 40th Anniversary commemorative publication.

EMMETT YORK

President, 1970-1971

Emmett York was Chairman of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians from 1967 until his death in 1971. He was the oldest of six children born to John and Necie York in Leake County, Mississippi on May 24, 1903.

He attended school in Oklahoma and was recognized as a skilled debater. He was devoted to his people and his goal in life was to achieve full economic and social status for Indian people. He reared a family of twelve children.

Mr. York was actively associated with the tribal government for twenty-four years. He served in several different capacities, including the position of Choctaw Tribal Chairman. During his administration, he was instrumental in the development of the Choctaw Land Development Program, where he strongly promoted an active land purchase plan to provide an adequate base for future economic growth of the tribe and sponsored the planting of timber on tribal lands to increase forestry yields. He was involved in the development of a tribal court system at Choctaw with tribal police officials and judges. A strong advocate for education and children, he collaborated with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the construction of the first high school on the Choctaw reservation. Mr. York also served in a supervisory capacity for the Choctaw Youth Center and was an active supporter of the 4-H.

A nationally recognized figure, Mr. York was chosen as one of America's Outstanding Indian Leaders in 1967. He was also included in the book, Personalities of the South, for his outstanding leadership and contributions in various capacities.

At the time of his death on July 26, 1971, he was President of the United Southeastern Tribes, as it was known at the time. York was one of the founders and an important supporter of USET.

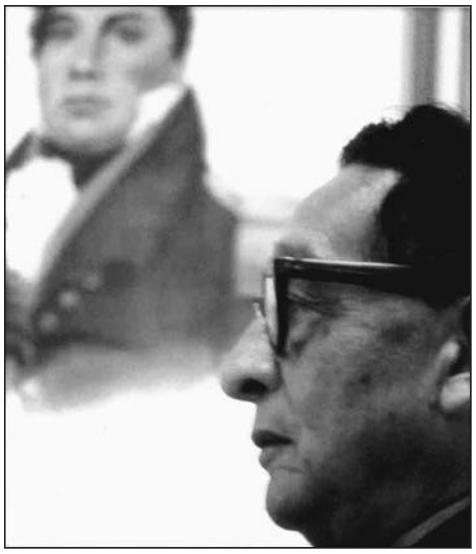
PHILLIP MARTIN

President, 1971-1972

As the Community Action Program (CAP) director for the Choctaw Tribe in the late 1960s, Martin was instrumental in the founding of United Southeastern Tribes, later to become United South and Eastern Tribes.

In addition to President of USET, Phillip Martin was Chairman of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians from 1959 to 1975, and Chief from 1979 to 2007. In his capacity as Tribal leader, the Choctaws made great strides in economic development and self-determination. In 1969, the Tribe started Chahta Development to build houses for tribal members. He negotiated with Packard Electric, a division of General Motors, and in 1979 Chahta Enterprise opened as the Tribe's first manufacturing company, producing wiring harnesses for the automotive industry.

Under Martin's leadership, for the first time in Indian country, Industrial Revenue Bonds were issued by the local, non-Indian government to finance the construction of a manufacturing facility on the reservation. In 1981, the 120,000 square-foot plant was leased to the American Greetings Corporation, the world's largest manufacturer of greeting cards. The Tribe opened the Choctaw Residential Center, a 120-bed nursing home, and a community retail shopping center that included a grocery store, bank, and general merchandise. By 1990, the Tribe had developed a diversified economy that included manufacturing, retail, service, and government jobs.



LEFT, *Former Chairmen Phillip Martin, left, & Emmett York pay their respects to Chief Pushmataha at the Old Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C.* **RIGHT**, *One hundred & fifty years after his death, Chief Pushmataha's portrait can be seen on the wall behind a silhouette of former Chairman Emmett York.*

The Choctaws branched out into tourism with the opening of the Silver Star Resort & Casino, and three years later the Tribe opened the 36-hole Dancing Rabbit golf Club. The nearby Golden Moon Hotel & Casino opened on October 4, 2002.

Martin has served as president of the National Tribal Chairmen's Association. From 1970 to 1976, he was the first president of the Board of Regents of Haskell Indian Junior College.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Hidden within the archives of USET Headquarters in Nashville is a treasure trove of thought, hope and vision that spans four decades. The old books of minutes from early USET minutes are rarely opened these days, but a little of the abundant wisdom they contain needs to be shared once again. As you read the following passages, allow yourself to imagine the dedication and heart of 40 years ago as the stage was set for 25 tribes to come together today.

"Many of the tribes in the East have not organized like USET. If we include all these eastern Indians, USET would increase in numbers up to 100,000 and would be stronger in influence on congressional leaders. If we organize a unified confederation of Indians in the East, we would be in a position to compete with Indian organizations in the West..."

- **Phillip Martin**
November 4, 1970

"Indian people are the only people who know what the Indian people want, and since you know what you want, you know how to go at it to solve the problem. If we Indian people don't start today, we will always be behind... we are going to have to do this work the best we know how and try to catch up. I don't think we can wait around until the world straightens itself up..."

"We'll never become full fledged citizens until we help the Government instead of riding its shoulders... Let us strive for cooperation. A divided house is weak... Let us stick together as an organization - USET. We know right and wrong. Let us not sit around and wait for some miracle to happen that we might have some share of it. Let us take hold, especially of our own affairs and let us make this miracle happen."

- **Emmett York**
March 1, 1971

AGT, Velasco honored during Disability Awareness Week

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program & the Office for Independent Living Services sponsored a series of activities commemorating National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October.

Disability Awareness Week, observed Oct. 12-16, was designated by Mi̱ko Beasley Denson & the Division of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation to increase public awareness of contributions & skills of workers with disabilities & celebrate their successes.

This year's theme for Disability Awareness Week was *Expectation + Opportunity = Full Participation.*

On Oct. 14, an awards luncheon was held at the Spectrum Buffet in the Golden Moon Hotel and Casino in Choctaw to recognize Applied Geo Technologies, Inc. (AGT), as the 2009 Employer of the Year and Jacklin Velasco as Employee of the Year

"Each program staff organized this event of raising awareness of disability issues and celebrating successes. We are here to celebrate successes today," said Theron Denson, Peer Counselor for the Choctaw Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program.

Pictured from left is Mike Miller, AGT representative, and Jacklin Velasco, AGT employee. AGT was honored as the 2009 Employer of the Year and Velasco was named Employee of the Year.

The event recognizes: employers who make significant impacts on the employment of individuals with disabilities; and an individual with a disability who has significant personal success and employment.

Denson then read part of a proclamation by President Barack Obama designating October as National

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Announcing Recruitment for the 2010/11 Class

AMERICAN INDIAN AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

A leadership development & community building initiative based on traditional Indigenous values for Native Americans seeking to:

- Positively impact their community
- Strengthen their ability to improve their communities well-being
- Reaffirm cultural values & identity
- Incorporate traditional values into strategies for the future

The next class will be formed in 2010. Deadline for Applications is January 8, 2010

Personal inquiry into one's own medicine • Dialogue on current issues • Meetings with leaders • International Indigenous perspectives • Public speaking competence • Topical readings • Community organizing skills • Mentor Relationships • Networks of contacts and resources

Open to Native Americans (including Alaska Natives & Native Hawaiians, federally & non-federally recognized tribes, & urban & reservation residents) from the United States between the ages of 25-35. Ambassadors remain in their communities & come together for four group meetings in & outside the U.S. Interested emerging leaders must submit an official application, including two nominations & a proposal outlining a plan for a community-based project.

For more information or to obtain an application,
please contact AIO
Americans for Indian Opportunity
1001 Marquette Avenue, NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102
Phone: 505-842-8677 • Fax: 505-842-8658
www.aio.org • aio@aio.org

To get more information about the Ambassador Program from MBCI Alumni, contact Gilbert Thompson, Natasha Phillips, or Gabriel K. Thompson.

CHOCTAW HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWS

Frequently asked questions about H1N1 (Swine Flu)

from the Infection Prevention & Control Office, Choctaw Health Department

Q. What's the difference between a pandemic flu outbreak and a bad flu season?

A. A flu pandemic is a global outbreak of disease that occurs when a new flu virus appears or "emerges" in the human population, causing serious illness and then spreads easily from person to person worldwide.

*Pandemics are caused by a new strain of flu against which there is little or no natural resistance and no vaccine.

*Flu viruses that have circulated previously cause normal annual flu outbreaks. Many people have some immunity to circulating strains. Every year in the United States, on average, 5-20 percent of the population gets the flu.

Q. What are the symptoms of the flu?

A. Flu symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, chills, runny nose, fatigue, body aches, headache, and sometimes vomiting and diarrhea.

Q. How long should I stay home if I have the flu?

A. Those with flu-like illness should stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever subsides on its own (without the aide of fever-reducing medicine) and regardless of whether they are using antiviral drugs or not. Health care workers should stay home for 7 days or until symptoms are gone, whichever is longer.

Q. When is the new H1N1

..........continued next page

Disability Employment Awareness Month.

"Fair access to employment is a fundamental right of every American, including the 54 million people in this country living with disabilities. A job can provide financial stability, help maximize our potential, and allow us to achieve our dreams. As Americans, we possess a range of vocational opportunities to make the most of our talents and succeed in a chosen career; those with disabilities are entitled to the same opportunities. During National Disability Employment Awareness Month, we recommit ourselves to implementing effective policies and practices that increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities."

Mike Miller, a representative of AGT, was in attendance to accept the Employer of the Year Award.

"We do a lot of things with Choctaw Rehabilitation Services. One day Larry (Thomas) and Mona (Stribling) [of the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program] showed up and we got to know a lot about what they do and the next thing they are helping us with our robotics program," said Miller.

Miller then announced possible employment opportunities in collaboration with their facility in Picayune that produces 210,00 gallon water and fuel tanks, which are used by the U.S. Army to store and transport water and fuel.

"We'll be working to identify those products that we can bring up here for the Vocational Rehabilitation Services to assemble for us," said Miller.

AGT is a premier, Tribally-owned provider of aerospace and defense services as they provide leading-edge manufacturing and subject matter expertise for a variety of applications.

Velasco serves as a receptionist at AGT headquarters in Choctaw. Her goal was to become an office worker but is gaining confidence and experience to see herself moving forward.

"Thank you," said Velasco during her Employee of the Year Award acceptance.

Other activities during disability week included health screenings and informative sessions. The week-long event was made possible by a grant from the Choctaw Community Fund.

Court Clerks, Probation Officers certified

The Choctaw Tribal Court is proud of the Court Clerks & Court Services Adult Probation Officers as they were recently certified in their position as they all passed with high scores. The Clerks had to pass eight pages of questions & two Probation Officers had to go for four weeks of training to get certified. It is accomplishments such as this that makes our court system more efficient & show more productivity. We extend our congratulation to all of them. Court Clerks seated, from left, are Shirley Negrete, Hanzel P. Isaac, D. Jane Charles; standing, Latricia Martin, Veronica Thomas, Alexis York, Bernadina York, & Nastassija Wesley Lyons. Not pictured is Dan Mittan & Adult Probation Officer Jannifer Willis.

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swine vaccine expected to be available in Mississippi?

A. Limited amounts of H1N1 swine flu vaccine are now available through some providers serving pregnant women and young children, two of the groups at highest risk from swine flu complications. H1N1 swine flu vaccine continues to arrive in MS and the CDC anticipates that over time sufficient vaccine will become available for all who want vaccinations. Vaccinations will initially be targeted to children six months to 4 years-old, pregnant women, and care givers of infants younger than six month.

Q. Will the seasonal flu vaccine also protect against 2009 H1N1 swine flu?

A. No. The season flu vaccine will not protect against H1N1 and the H1N1 vaccine will not protect against seasonal flu. You will need both vaccines to be fully protected.

Q. Should I still get vaccinated if I've already had swine flu?

A. Yes. The CDC still recommends vaccination as an added layer of protection.

Q. Can I get the H1N1 and seasonal vaccines at the same time?

A. Yes. We recommend getting the seasonal vaccine as soon as possible, but the seasonal and H1N1 can be given at the same time as long as both vaccines are not nasal spray.

Q. Will I need more than one injection of H1N1 vaccine?

A. Healthy people from age 10-64 will only need one dose. Children under age 9 will need two doses of the H1N1 vaccine.

For Your Protection

Until more vaccinations become available:

*Wash your hands often, especially after you sneeze or cough;

*Try to avoid close contact with sick people;

*Avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth;

*Do not share items for drinking or eating;

*Avoid crowds during flu season;

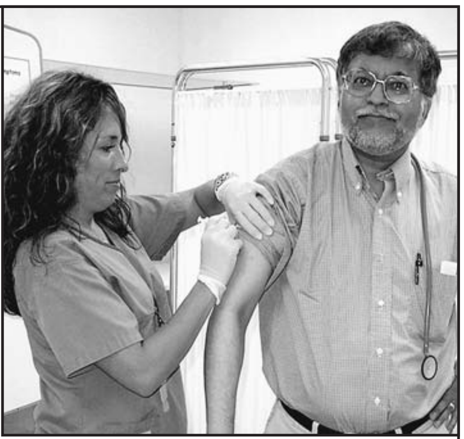
*Drink plenty of water, get enough sleep, exercise and eat nutritious foods daily;

*Keep stress under control; and

*Keep kitchens, bathrooms and toys clean.

For more information, go to www.cdc.gov or www.healthyms.com, or e-mail Jackie Holley, RN, at jackie.holley@choctaw.org.

LETTER FROM DR. JOSHI



To all the Choctaw Communities, all my patients and Hospital Staff

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and I want to take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for making me part of your larger family and treating me as part of your group.

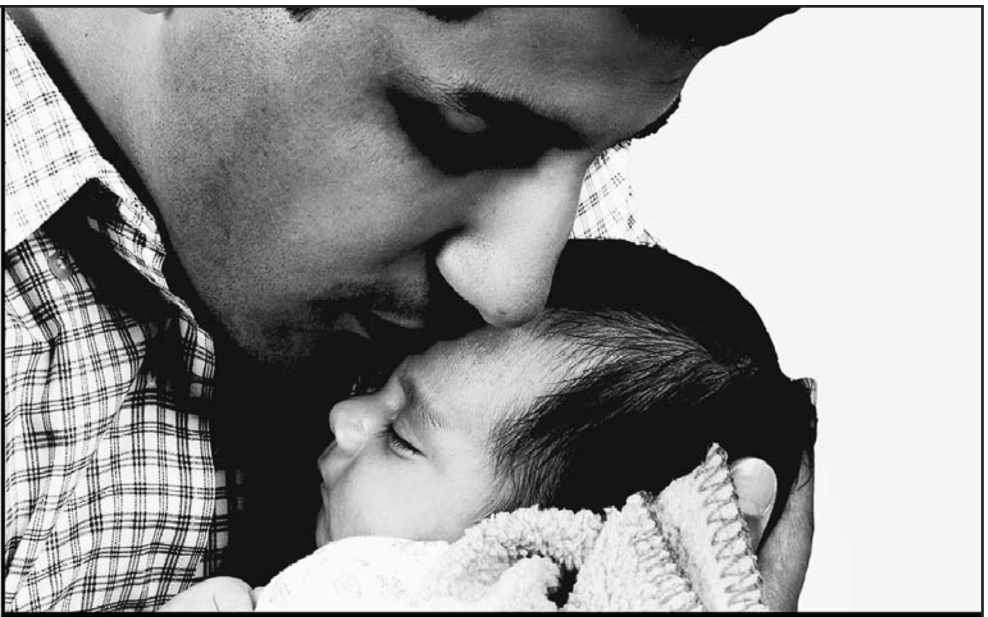
This year marks a special milestone in my medical career as I am completing 20 years of my association with Choctaw Health Center. I greatly appreciate your love, affection, trust and opportunity to serve you for such a long time.

I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and a safe holiday time.

I am truly honored to be your Alecchi.

Sincerely,
Dr. Joshi

Please don't forget to get your flu vaccination, I got mine!



Even if you're healthy, if you live with or care for someone at increased risk for serious complications from influenza, including seasonal flu and 2009 H1N1 flu, (sometimes called "swine flu") you should get vaccinated. Groups at high risk include **infants** and **pregnant women.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION
800-CDC-INFO
WWW.FLU.GOV

I'll protect my baby.

I'll get my flu vaccines.

Babies younger than 6 months can't be vaccinated against the flu, but they are at high risk for severe complications from seasonal flu and 2009 H1N1 influenza (sometimes called "swine flu").
They rely on *you* to protect them. Get vaccinated.

From center left to center right: John Hendrix of MBCI Economic Development, Terry Watkins of Pearl River Resort, Cheriena Ben of Applied Geo Technologies, Inc., & Fred Willis of MBCI Public Information take a picture with staff members from the Mississippi Welcome Centers.

Welcome Center members visit reservation

On Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009, staff members from all of the Welcome Centers in Mississippi visited the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. They wanted to learn about the Tribe in order to encourage visitors to Mississippi to visit the Tribe.

They stayed at the Silver Star Hotel and Casino and had breakfast at the Hilton Garden Inn. They met with John Hendrix of MBCI Economic Development, Terry Watkins of Pearl River Resort, and Cheriena Ben at Applied Geo Technologies, Inc.

They also went on a drive-about tour of the Reservation with Fred Willis of MBCI Public Information serving as the tour guide. After the tour, they stopped at the Museum and saw bead work, basket weaving, and dress making demonstrations.

The group was excited to learn about the Tribe, and they wanted to showcase Choctaw culture at all of the Welcome Centers.

Special thanks to all of the individuals who made the group feel at home here in Choctaw!

November is Diabetes Awareness Month

The Diabetes Prevention Team of the Choctaw Health Department would like to encourage everyone to participate in their efforts to prevent Diabetes and/or its complications from the disease.

We see all around us people suffering from complications, heart disease, blindness, kidney failure, amputations, and eventually premature death. Be a person that cares. You can help by simply doing the following.

EDUCATION

Learn about DIABETES! Teach your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and everybody around you about the disease and its effects.

..........continued next page

From left, Rep. Broomfield, his wife Vera, & Mrs. Broomfield's sister, Shirley Chambers, pose with Ricky Mingo in front of the OTC's float that was entered into the 2009 CCHS Homecoming Parade in October.

Representative, family visit Tribe

State Representative Billy Broomfield, his wife Vera, and Mrs. Broomfield's sister, Shirley Dubose Chambers, visited the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians on Oct. 8, 2009.

Mr. Broomfield represents District 110 - Jackson County. He and his group visited the Tribe to see firsthand what the Tribe has to offer. They toured the facilities at the Elderly Activity Center and the Occupational Training Center (OTC).

They had lunch at the OTC and saw the float that was entered into the CCHS Homecoming Parade the following day. Before they left, they took a picture with Ricky Mingo, one of the float's builders. Mingo is a senior at CCHS and is enrolled in the course Building Trades II at the OTC.

All three guests enjoyed their visit and Mrs. Broomfield planned on getting together a group of people to visit the Tribe.

PREVENTION

- Become physically active
- Adopt a healthier lifestyle
- Control your weight
- Eat less fat
- Eat less sugar
- Eat more fruits and vegetables

INTERVENTION

If you know of someone that may be at risk of developing the disease, encourage him/her to join you in adopting a healthier lifestyle. If you know of a person that is Diabetic but is not controlling it very well, intervene NOW!

Let them know you care. Tell them of the consequence of uncontrolled Diabetes.

Having Diabetes does not mean "give up", it means "control it before it controls you!"

Just because you have a family history of Diabetes does not mean you have to accept it as your destiny.

Diabetes prevention - it's up to you!

For more information on Diabetes or program activities please call 601.389.6354.

HONOR
REMEMBER
RESPECT
OUR
COMMUNITY
VETERANS

IN APPRECIATION

From the Pearl River Development Club Officers - thank you to those individuals who stepped up to assist in our efforts to honor our community's veterans in the Veteran's Day Parade. To Jimmy & Elvin Ben for their carpentry skills, Brenda Isaac & Rosie Mesteth for their creativity. A special thank you to IKBI Construction for their donation of space & employee, Mike Merritt, to our community's efforts. God Bless All.

PEARL RIVER DEVELOPMENT CLUB MEETS EVERY 1ST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, 7:00 P.M. AT THE TRIBAL COUNCIL HALL.

Tribe pays tribute to veterans during parade

On Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians honored the men and women who sacrificed much to preserve the United States of America during the annual Choctaw Veterans Day Parade in Choctaw.

More than thirty entries were in the parade, including naval personnel from the Naval Air Station in Meridian, Miss.

This year's Grand Marshall was Gloria White, who rode in the parade to honor her late husband, retired U.S. Army Captain Mike O. White. Capt. White had been the Choctaw Veterans Coordinator for a number of years and had organized the annual Veterans Parade every year since its establishment.

After the conclusion of the parade, a post-parade ceremony was held to honor all veterans. Also during the ceremony, prizes were awarded to winners of the Veterans Poster contest and the Veterans Parade entry contest.

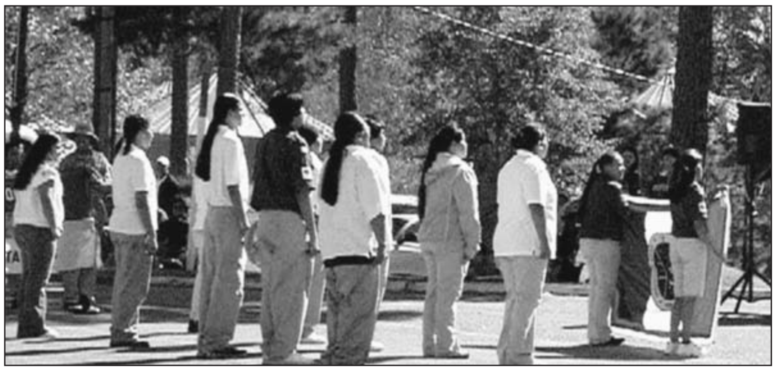
The poster contest was divided into two categories: a junior category, which consisted of 7th-9th grades, and a senior category, which consisted of 10th-12th grades.

Winners in the junior category were: 1st place - Brandi Charlie, 2nd place - Angelina York, 3rd place - Reagan Hickman, and Honorable Mention - Nikkole Isaac.

Winners in the senior category were: 1st place - Joe Isaac, 2nd place - Richard King, 3rd place - Dylan Dixon, and Honorable Mention - Kahlon "Jack" Logan. Each of the winners received a cash prize.

The parade entry contest

..........see PARADE, pg. 12



The winner of the Group Category in the Veteran's Day Parade was the Venture Crew Troop 61.

STUART NICKEY
MARINES
HERMAN BILLIE
ARMY
DAVID FRAZIER, JR
ARMY
NICKY CHARLIE
ARMY
FENNELL THOMAS
ARMY
TROY NICKEY, SR.
ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY
RANDY
ARMY
HENRY ROBINSON
NAVY
MATTHEW SANDERS
ARMY
GABRIEL BILLIE
MARINES

The winner of the Vehicle Category was Choctaw Public Safety.

HAPI TASHKA OKLI HOLITOBLI
U.S. MARINE CORP

The winner of the Float Category was the MBCI Cultural Preservation Programs.

SEEKS INFORMATION ON FAMILY MEMBER

Tribal member Stephen Allen is seeking information on his great-grandmother Annie Bell. She was married to Edgar Tubby & they were the parents of his grandmother, Pauline Tubby. He is specifically looking for information in regards to Annie Bell's parents (his great-great grandparents). Any information is greatly appreciated. To contact Stephen, call 601-209-7672 or 601-568-6046.

PARADE ....continued from page eleven

was divided into three categories: Group, Vehicle, and Float.

In the Group category, winners were: 1st place - Venture Crew Troop 61, 2nd place - Standing Pine Social Dancers, and 3rd place - Kabocca Boli Dance Group.

Winners in the Vehicle category were: 1st place - Choctaw Public Safety, 2nd place - Philadelphia Biker Boys, and 3rd place - Kari Nickey, Young Little East Central Mississippi.

The winners in the Float category were: 1st place - Cultural Preservation Programs, 2nd place - Conehatta Elementary, and 3rd place - Pearl River Elementary.

The second and final day of the 2009 Veterans Pow-Wow commenced at 8:00 a.m. at the Pearl River Recreational Field and continued until 10:00 p.m.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians extends its appreciation to all of the individuals and organizations that made the 2009 Veterans Parade and Pow-Wow possible.

The Tribe also encourages everyone to take the time to thank veterans or those who are currently serving in the military. Without their sacrifice, the people of the United States of America would not have the freedoms they enjoy.

Veterans Day Pow Wow a success

The 2009 Veteran's Day PowWow was held on Nov. 6-7, 2009, in honor of all veterans in all branches of the military. We are thankful for the sacrifices you have made for our country & our people.

The grand entries were a wonderful mix of dancers with different colors & styles. The weather cooperated & provided a beautiful backdrop for our dancers. In addition, we had several different craft vendors & food vendors with a great variety of items & food for sale.

On Friday, we were pleased to have Badger Wahwasuck & Sonya Smith to serve as Head Man & Head Lady Dancer. On Saturday, we were honored to have Erny Zah & Karen Wahwasuck to serve as Head Man & Head Lady Dancer.

Our Host drum was Shoti Ikbi of Tennessee. Arena Director was Ken Dixon & Assistant AD was Ricky "Columbo" Willis.

MC & Master of Disaster was our own Harold "Doc" Comby. Guest drums included Southern Pine & the Rez Boys. Thank you to you all!

We want to thank everyone who worked hard in making this years' Veterans Day PowWow possible. Thank you to the following programs for their assistance: Choctaw Central High School & the Division of Early Childhood Education for donating food to feed the dancers & singers; Clif Saunders for assistance from the Community Fund; Mi̱ko Beasley Denson & the Tribal Administration for helping us; Boys & Girls Club; & the Young Explorers. And a special thanks to all the Veterans Day PowWow committee members for helping in all areas. Yakoki!

CULTURAL PRESERVATION NEWS

CULTURAL PRESERVATION PROGRAMS

The month of October has been an eventful month for the newly consolidated Cultural Preservation Programs (CPP). Programs which make up the CPP - the Choctaw Tribal Archives, Cultural Affairs, Tribal Language, & the Choctaw Museum - have had their

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Float places 1st in 2009 Veteran's Day Parade

The Choctaw Cultural Preservation Programs honored all veterans by participating in the Nov. 7 Veterans Day Parade held in Choctaw, Miss. U.S. Marine Corps veterans Billy Thompson & Jay Wesley were special honorees aboard the CPP float. Also on board were CPP mascot "Shawi" (Peggy Williams), Jay's children - Kaylan Gibson, Jocelyn Wesley, Jaeden Wesley - & the all important driver, Wauseka York.

LEFT, *CPP Language team member Patty Billie gives a presentation at the ONLA Conference.*

staff participating in several conferences & events to fill their role as keepers & promoters of the Choctaw Culture.

CPP Tribal Language Team Travels to Oklahoma for ONLA Conference

Cultural Preservation Programs Language staff members Melissa Argueta, Curtis Willis Jr., Patty Billie & DeLaura Saunders attended the 13th Annual Oklahoma Native Language Association (ONLA) Conference in Preston, Okla., on Oct. 8-9, 2009. The theme for the two day conference was "Reflecting & Planning for the Future".

Other tribes from through out the State of Oklahoma gathered for the event to share, teach, & encourage one another in the endeavor to preserve, promote, & enhance the use of Indian languages.

As a participant of the ONLA conference, the CPP language team gained the opportunity to collect information on language teaching methods, received insight into issues facing native languages & established contacts with other tribes.

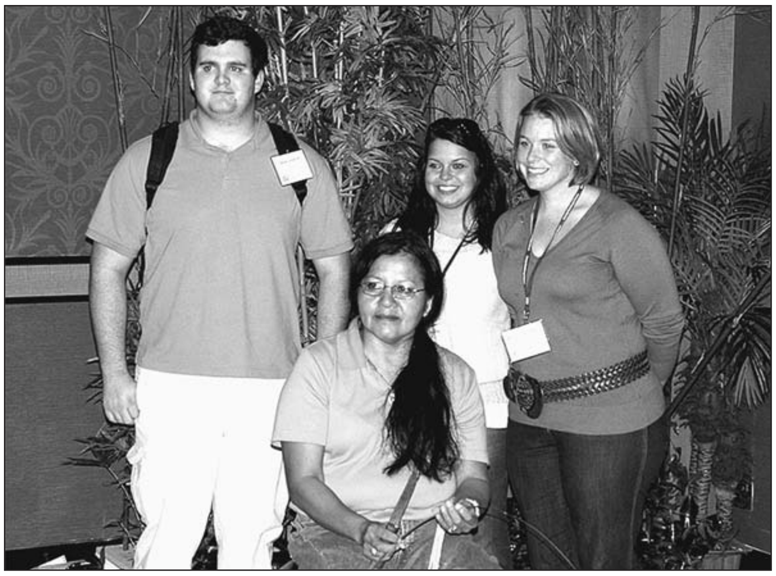
At the close of the conference, the CPP staff turned from participant to presenter - the group conducted a presentation about the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) involvement with the ECHO project, the tribes cultural & language activities, & language assessment tools used by the MBCI Language Program.

The CPP Language team's trip also included a visit to a Cherokee Immersion School sponsored by the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The group was given a tour while school was in session.

The group witnessed Cherokee children read, write, & be instructed in their own language. The experience the CPP staff received during the tour moved them to envision the Choctaw Tribal Schools with the same type of immersion program.

"Our tribe can do this too, but if it is also to be accredited we need to push for more certified teachers, who are Choctaw speakers... We can begin with the very young in all the childcare centers that are operated by the Tribe, to mandate that teachers speak Choctaw to the children, then Choctaw Literacy-reading and writing can begin in the language by kindergarten," stated DeLaura Saunders, CPP Administrative Coordinator.

Curtis Willis & Performance Arts Group, Anchorage, Alaska



CPP member Pearlie Thomas, seated, poses with Cane Symposium Participants.

CPP's Curtis Willis Jr. shares his travel to Anchorage for ECHO Performing Arts Festival

It was a great opportunity to attend the Education through Cultural & Historical Organizations (ECHO) Performing Arts Festival (PAF) workshop in Anchorage, Alaska. Sharing, learning & working with other people from different states with different cultures & their heritage was a life changing experience for me. Making one's journey by bringing ideas from different natives to create a performance was challenging. Putting time & effort each day seemed a lot, but each individual had their own personality & creativity which made the day go by quick.

We were also fortunate to be invited to a huge gathering called the Alaska Federation of Natives held in Anchorage this year. It was awesome to see natives in different regalia all gathered in one place. This event opened our eyes & gave us more insight as to how the performance should be.

I would like to thank the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians & all who took part in allowing me to represent the Tribe. YAKOKIH.

-Curtis Willis, Jr.

Visit to Seminole Tribe of Florida's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

The CPP's Martha Spencer, Martha Ferguson & Sonja Monk utilized the opportunity to further the MBCI's efforts in Cultural Preservation, Showcasing of Choctaw Culture, & Cultural Promotion by assisting with the United South Eastern Tribes' 40th Anniversary Celebration/Meeting.

Sonja Monk was selected as the Mistress of Ceremony to conduct the MBCI's luncheon presentation on Choctaw Culture. This opportunity was maximized by conducting a resource gathering session with the first Tribal owned Museum to be accredited by the American Association of Museums (AAM), the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

One of the goals of the ECHO project is to set-up a Choctaw Heritage Center to be accredited by AAM through networking with other tribes such as the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum provides a wealth of cultural resources, educational programming, and showcasing of Seminoles through historical artifacts, exhibits, and archives.

More information can be found online about the services provided at www.ahtahthiki.com.

Rivercane Symposium held at Silver Star

A cooperative effort of Mississippi State University (MSU), Farm Service Agency, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, Gulf Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, ECHO, & the MBCI resulted

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CPP NEWS ....continued from page thirteen

in the 2009 Rivercane Symposium entitled “Rivercane Restoration: Linking Cultural, Biological and Economic Values” on Oct. 26-27, 2009. This symposium focused on the cultural and economic importance of rivercane for Native American tribes in the Southeast.

The 2009 Rivercane Symposium was a component of MSU’s Pearl River Wetland Demonstration Project, which has been in practice for the past several years.

Tribal Administration representative, Dr. Ken York, was available to welcome all participants to the symposium with his presentation of a brief history of the MBCI.

The Choctaw Elderly Social Dance Group presented social dancing for the guests of the symposium.

Rivercane processing for basketry was demonstrated by MBCI’s Cultural Preservation Program staff member Pearlie Thomas. Other Cultural Preservation Program staff members Bobby Smith, Eddie Johnson, Sean Gantt, & Mitzi Reed were present for the various research presentations.

To illustrate the importance of rivercane to the Mississippi Choctaws, the Cultural Preservation Program displayed an exhibit of cultural artisans’ uses of baskets and blowguns.

Research topics from various universities in the southeast were presented to illustrate the importance of rivercane restoration for habitat, ecosystem functions, & plant materials for Native American artisans.

Language Preservation Summit, Oct. 26-28, 2009

The CPP Administrative Coordinator, the CPP Special Projects Planner/Coordinator, & the Language Resource/Liaison attended Falmouth Institute’s Native American Language Preservation Summit 2009 in Phoenix, AZ.

This conference consisted of workshops & discussions on the following: Language as a Political Instrument, Mentor/Master-Apprentice Programs, Instilling Language Ownership in Today’s Youth, Special Strategies for Dormant Languages, Non-ANA Funding Sources, a technological tools panel, & the sharing of ideas, methods, strategies from other tribes.

This summit provided useful & needed information on assisting MBCI’s efforts in preservation, revitalization, & maintenance of Choctaw Language & Culture.

Peggy Williams (far left), Jay Wesley (2nd from left), DeLaura Saunders (far right), with Deanna Daniels & Shaylene Boechler from the First Peoples’ Heritage, Language & Culture Council & FirstVoices in British Columbia, Canada.

SPECIAL PROJECTS ANNOUNCEMENT

Education through Cultural & Historical Organizations (ECHO)

The ECHO Program is authorized by Title V, Subpart 12, Section 5522, of the No Child Left Behind Act

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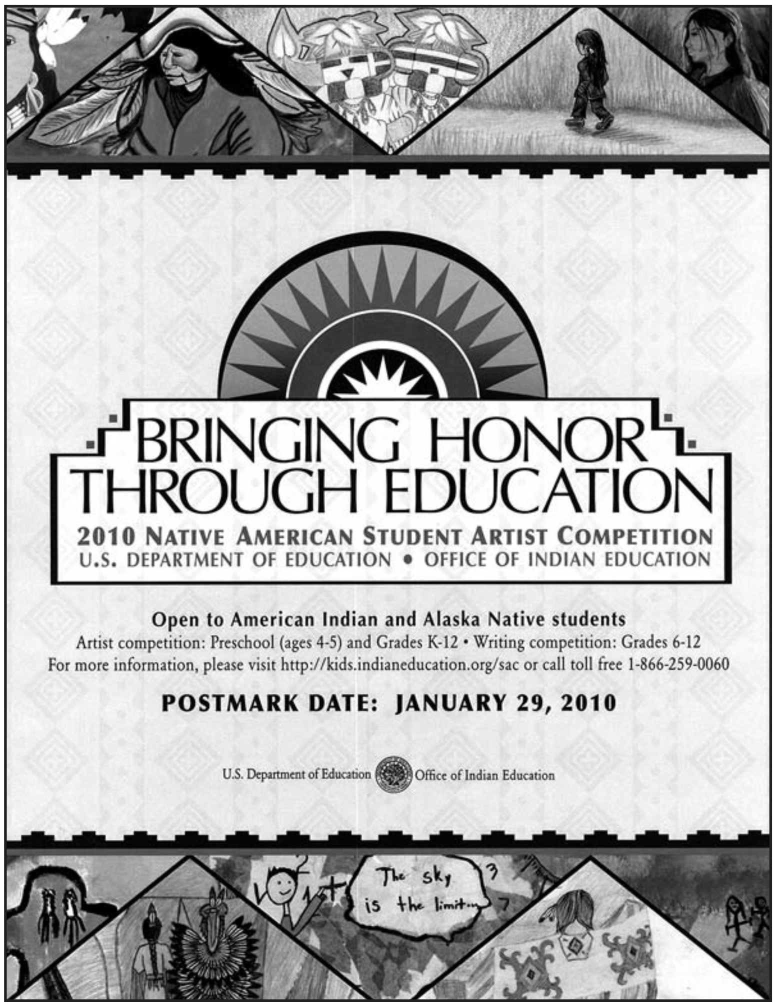

BRINGING HONOR THROUGH EDUCATION

2010 NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT ARTIST COMPETITION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION • OFFICE OF INDIAN EDUCATION

Open to American Indian and Alaska Native students

Artist competition: Preschool (ages 4-5) and Grades K-12 • Writing competition: Grades 6-12

For more information, please visit http://kids.indianeducation.org/sac or call toll free 1-866-259-0060

POSTMARK DATE: JANUARY 29, 2010

U.S. Department of Education Office of Indian Education

OIE announces 2010 Native American Student Art Competition

Bringing Honor Through Education is the theme for the U.S. Department of Education, Office Indian Education’s (OIE) 2010 Native American Student Art Competition. The competition, which celebrates the values and successes of education in Native American communities, is open to all American Indian and Alaska Native students in grades Pre-K through 12. The deadline for submissions is January 29, 2010.

By supporting this competition, the OIE hopes to inspire students to explore the connection between their education and culture through art and writing. Entries for the 2010 Native American Student Art Competition should relate to the theme *Bringing Honor Through Education* and reflect the promise and importance of pursuing an education for Native youth.

Submissions will be judged in six different grade levels, and prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in the artist and writing categories.

In recognition of the students’ artistic talents, the 2009 Native American Student Artist winning entries were exhibited at the U.S. Department of Education, the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian, Oklahoma History Center, and the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture.

The Student Art Competition rules require that a student register their entry online or over the phone prior to submitting their entry. For additional information, rules, and entry form, please visit www.kids.indianeducation.org, e-mail sac@indianeducation.org, or call (866)259-0060.

of 2001. The ECHO Program supports culturally based educational activities, internships, apprenticeship programs, & exchanges for Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, children & families of Massachusetts, & the MBCI.

ECHO's aims are: to enhance appreciation of regional heritage, to facilitate dialogue & understanding between communities & individuals, & to provide life-enhancing opportunities beyond those provided by traditional classrooms.

The MBCI became an ECHO partner in 2006 & is currently managed by the CPP.

ECHO partners include the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage, Alaska; the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum in Honolulu, Hawaii; the Inupiat Heritage Center/ North Slope Borough in Barrow, Alaska; the New Bedford ECHO Project including the New Bedford Whaling Museum & the New Bedford Oceanarium collaborating with the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, & the MBCI.

The goals & objectives of the MBCI through the ECHO project is to:

*Set-up a Choctaw Heritage Center (Cultural Education Center);

*Design Choctaw historical & cultural awareness exhibits;

*Produce Choctaw multimedia materials;

*Establish organizational standards & protocols for the collection, identification, cataloguing, preservation & sharing of historically & culturally information & artifacts;

*Catalogue & Digitize tribal archival information;

*Collaborative Projects with ECHO Partners;

*Development of Nanih Waiya historical complex as a cultural & environmental classroom; &

*Collect, translate, & transcribe Choctaw Elders' oral histories.

Please visit www.echospace.org for more information on the ECHO Partnerships & available learning resources.

CHOCTAW CULTURAL ARTS WORKSHOP

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT BEADING
December 1 & 8, 2009
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

To be held at the
Institute of Chahta Immi Training Room
(Next door to Piggly Wiggly across from the Welcome Center)
Ages 10 and Up - No small children please.
Call Thallis Lewis for registration at 601-650-7350
BEADING SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED

YAKOKI CHITO!

submitted by Phyllis A. McMillan, Choctaw Celebration Day Coordinator

Choctaw Celebration Day (*Chahta Ayopachi Nitak*) activities was sponsored by the Division of Early Childhood & hosted by the Pearl River Head Start, which was held on Nov. 6 at the Pearl River Amphitheater.

We give special thanks to the following programs & individuals who made significant contributions to this year's Choctaw Celebration Day Festival:

Mary Emma John, Elderly Social & Nutrition Program, & to our elders for their dances, (yakoki elders for teaching us the important values of keeping our language, culture & traditions alive); Choctaw Tribal Council representative for their donations; and thank you to all the parents & family members for attending this year's festival in support of your child or children.

Other thanks to Harrison Nickey for the invocation & Elizabeth Allen for benediction; Mistress of Ceremonies Princess Famie Cheyenne Willis; chanters Bruce Jim & Dalton Henry; drummer Christopher (Speedy) Lewis; MBCI Maintenance Dept. - Levester Hickman & Kendall Steve for delivery of tables & chairs; Jennifer Henry for taking pictures; & Cultural Preservation Program Staff members Curtis (Buck) Willis Jr., DeLaura Saunders & Priscilla Williams for saying the "Pledge of Allegiance" in Choctaw.

Special thanks to Robin Allen for firewood delivery & to Raphael McMillan Sr. for building the fire & tending it. Very special thanks to the Conehatta & Tucker Facility building workers for cooking, cleaning up or multiple duties - Vandall Vaughn, Eleanor Vaughn, Glenna Phillips, Delvin Williams, Bobby Williams, Georgianna McMillan, Peggy Padron, & Edward McMillan.

Thank you to Ary Willis for cooking the hog meat (*shoka nipi*). Thank you very much to the people who allowed us to use their black pots - Lola Jackson, Delilah Gibson & Etta Johnson. And a big thank you to Darwin Willis for mopping the floor before & after the celebration & also for taking care of the waste management.

Thanks to the Division of Early Childhood Program staff, center directors, teachers, cooks bus drivers, clean-up crew, stage decorators, & the children especially.

A very big thank-you to parents! Thank you for keeping our Choctaw Culture & Tradition alive by providing traditional beads & clothing for your children to participate in the Celebration.

The children looked very beautiful & colorful & this Celebration would not have been possible without your children.

Yakoki!

Choctaw Child Find Annual Notice

In compliance with State & Federal Law, notice is hereby given by The Choctaw Tribal School System that it conducts on-going identification activities as part of its school district wide program for the purpose of identifying students who may need special education & related services. This child find project helps locate, evaluate, & initiate education or other needed services for children & youth who have or are at risk of developing disabilities or other special needs. Child Find targets birth through 21 years of age with primary emphasis on children birth to 5 years of age.

Child Find assists parents & schools in the early identification of children who are at risk of developing special or unique needs & who are not presently being served by the Choctaw Exceptional Education Program. Choctaw Tribal Schools' Exceptional Education Program collaboratively plans & provides information, training, technical assistance, consultation, & resources related to effective instructional strategies for children & youth who have disabilities or other special needs. The program provides support in assistive, instructional & communications technologies for educators, families, & children & youth who have disabilities or other special needs. Preschoolers are screened in the areas of motor, pre-academics, speech/language, behavior/social skills, vision, & hearing. After the child is screened, a member of the screening team meets with the parents to review screening results & to make recommendations.

The program helps locate, coordinate, & fund an array of services to assist the child in developing to his or her fullest potential. These include: Assistive Technology, Health Services, Medical Diagnostic Services, Speech Therapy, Social Work, Psychological Services, Physical Therapy, Nutritional, Nursing Services, Occupational Therapy, Transportation, Audiological, Special Instruction, Vision Services, Family Training, Counseling & Home Visits, Service Coordination, & Multi-Disciplinary Evaluations. The program also provides supportive services to families to assist them in understanding their child's developmental abilities & to assist them with helping their child develop.

If a child is identified by the district as needing such services, parent/guardians will be notified of applicable procedures. These services including transportation are provided by the Choctaw Exceptional Education Program. Several principles apply when decisions are made about services to individual students, including:

Decisions are always based upon an evaluation of the student's current level of functioning & the unique needs of the student.

Whenever possible, the student is served on his/her home campus.

Students are not grouped by disability but by educational need.

The educational setting is not defined by the teacher's role but by the student's needs.

The instructional arrangement is assigned to the student, & special education teachers may provide a variety of services throughout the day.

Most students receive instruction in a variety of settings throughout the day with an emphasis on opportunities to interact with age appropriate non-disabled peers. Services & Individualized programs are available for children who are determined to need specially designed instruction due to the following conditions:

Autism/pervasive developmental disorder, Blindness/visual impairment, Deafness/hearing impairment, Emotional disturbance, Mental retardation, Multiple disabilities, Neurological impairment, Orthopedic disability, Specific learning disability, Speech or language impairment Other health impairment, Mentally gifted.

The cornerstone Federal legislation for the education of students with disabilities is the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). IDEA explains how students with disabilities will access a free appropriate public education (FAPE). IDEA 2004 requires that evaluations are completed in a timely manner to address all of the students' special education needs & that an IEP is developed that meets the students. Additional evaluations may be required to determine those needs & to develop an appropriate IEP. Therefore, students' needs are identified & a FAPE is provided in a timely manner.

The Choctaw Tribal School System recognizes that students whose disabilities adversely impact educational performance & who require specially designed instruction have potential for improving educational performance when they receive special education & related services tailored to fit their needs. The district runs a full continuum of special education services/programs for students ages birth to 21 who

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Title I Parent Advisory meets

The Title I Parent Advisory Board met recently at the Title I Parent Center. Fifteen board members attended the working lunch. Board members welcomed two guests, Amanda Bell & Larisa Willis. Board Chair, Darlene Willis, recognized the following new board members - Magda Bell, Cheryl Willis, Jenny Deon, & Pandora Sockey.

David Germany, Acting Director of Schools, informed the Board that all eight Choctaw Tribal Schools made AYP! He discussed the Employee Leave Policy, school uniforms, & the Emergency Notification System.

William F. Bell, Title I Coordinator, presented interesting facts about the title programs. Liddia Hughes, Alternative School Principal, has been invited to speak at the Dec. 8, 2009 board meeting.

For further information concerning the Parent Advisory Board, contact Darlene Willis, Chair; Denise John, Co-Chair; William F. Bell, Title I Coordinator; or Dianne Johnston, Parent Center Coordinator.

Pictured above, seated from left, are Denise John & Darlene Willis; back row, Pandora Sockey, Jenny Deon, Magda Bell, & Cheryl Willis.

Bogue Chitto Beta Club has new members

The Bogue Chitto Beta Club held their induction ceremony recently & welcomed 10 new members. The officers for this year's club are: AshRhonda Robinson - President; Nikkita Mingo - Vice President; Peyton Bell - Treasurer; & Jasmine Hickman. We, at Bogue Chitto, are very proud & feel honored to have this many outstanding students in our school. Thanks to all the parents & sponsors for their work.

meet the requirements for eligibility. Specially designed computer programs in labs & classrooms combine hardware, software, & supporting services to create more effective ways of delivering individualized learning that's inspirational. These programs also provide exciting ways of communicating & collaborating, producing & delivering attention-grabbing lessons, & recording the attainment of individual learners.

The goal of the Choctaw Tribal School System is to provide full educational opportunity & a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to all students with disabilities ages birth through twenty-one (21). It is the responsibility of the district to ensure that students suspected of having a disability are subject to general education intervention procedures, and that all students with disabilities or who are gifted, regardless of the severity of their disability, & who are in need of specially designed instruction & related services, are identified, located, & evaluated, & appropriate exceptional student education is made available to them if it is determined that the student meets the eligibility criteria specified in IDEA 2004.

Additionally, The Choctaw Tribal School System elects to serve children with disabilities from birth to the age of five. General education intervention procedures are available for pre-kindergarten through grade twelve (12) students suspected of having a disability. The school district has the responsibility to develop & implement coordinated general education intervention procedures for students who need additional academic & behavioral support to succeed in the general education environment. In implementing these procedures, Choctaw Tribal Schools' activities include the provision of educational & behavioral evaluations, services, & supports, including scientifically based literacy instruction & professional development for teachers & other school staff to enable them to deliver scientifically based academic & behavioral interventions &, where appropriate, instruction on the use of adaptive & instructional software.

The District provides a full continuum of program options for students with disabilities. Program options for students ages birth-21 are located throughout the district. Resource room options are available in each location, & clustered, specialized programs are available in selected locations on the reservation.

Student Services include counseling & guidance, health programs, coalitions with community agencies, & student supervision. Nurses, dyslexia therapist, intervention/prevention specialists, & social workers are part of the Choctaw Tribal Schools exceptional Education Program.

Occupational, career, & technical education opportunities are available for Choctaw Central students. Classes include business education, marketing education, family & consumer sciences, health occupations, information technology, culinary arts, woodworking, & graphic design; on the job training & technology education classes' help prepare Choctaw students for the world of work or to enter advanced programs at a technical or community college.

Community Transitions is a special education program for older students who need extra time to complete transition goals & earn credits toward graduation, as indicated on their Individual Education Program (IEP). This program links with the high school programs to continue to provide transition services for students until they turn 21, as applicable.

The Early Education Intervention Program has made a commitment to identify & serve disabled, developmentally delayed, & at-risk Choctaw Children. For more information about services provided by Choctaw Exceptional Education or to help a child or family determine eligibility for services, call the Choctaw Early Education Intervention Program Coordinator, Joann Hardy, at 601-663-7655 or send an email to jhardy@cts.bia.edu

Persons knowing of a disabled child who is not receiving an education or know of other children who might be in need of special education services, should contact Ms. Sylvia Jones, Child Find Coordinator, 122 Division of Schools Drive, Choctaw, MS 39350, telephone number 601-663-7653, or sjones@cts.bia.edu

The Choctaw Tribal Schools & the exceptional education program are dedicated to excellence in educational services.

Participates in softball camp

Malaina Grasshopper, member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, traveled to Little Rock, Arkansas, on Oct. 24-25 to participate in the Jennie Finch Softball Camp. The camp offered instruction for all positions and aspects of the game and offered each camper the opportunity to interact with and learn from some of the best softball players of the world, including professional, olympic & collegiate athletes. Malaina resides in the Bogue Chitto Community with her mother, Rachel Tubby, stepfather Kendall Wallace & sister Kacie Wallace. Pictured above with Malaina, left, is camp organizer Jennie Finch.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY NOVEMBER
OUR COUNTRY
OUR HEROES
OUR FIGHT
A COMMON VIRTUE

Veteran's Day Program at BCES

Bogue Chitto Elementary students, parents & staff paid tribute to our veterans with a special recognition program & luncheon. Students wrote letters to veterans thanking them for protecting our rights & our country. There was a candle lighting ceremony in recognition of deceased veterans. Veterans in attendance were Doris Thompson, Angela Hundley, John Clemmons, Jimmy Morris, Tony Waltman, Franklin Hickman, & Clifton Hickman. After the program, all enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by the cafeteria staff.

Attends Fall Fun Day

Fall Fun Day was held Oct. 22 at the Neshoba County Coliseum. It was attended by area special needs students in Neshoba County & was sponsored by Neshoba County, Philadelphia, Choctaw Disability Children's Foundation, MSU Extension Service, 4-H, & Special Education Departments of Choctaw Central, Neshoba Central & Philadelphia. Mr. Dalton Henry, Tribal Education Services Officer, spoke to the large crowd of participants with some words of encouragement. Fourteen students from Bogue Chitto attended the fun-filled day. There were games to play, live animals to pet, & emergency vehicles to explore.

Community Relations Day

Parents, students & staff at Bogue Chitto Elementary School had the best time during the October Title I Parent Meeting. Everyone enjoyed the Klutz Build-a-Book activity. Students were encouraged to create & design their own books. Several students shared their creations with the group. After the meeting everyone had hamburgers from Wendy's.

Choctaw Fire Department visits BCES

On Oct. 8, the Choctaw Fire Department visited the Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd grade classes at Bogue Chitto Elementary School. Students learned about fire safety, smoke alarms, what to do if their clothes catch on fire, & how to become a firefighter. They enjoyed seeing the fire truck & the equipment that is needed by the firefighters to fight fires. The students at Bogue Chitto thank Mr. Allen Meely for visiting during Fire Safety Week.

Conehatta's Veterans Day Celebration

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2009, Conehatta Elementary School honored their veterans with a patriotic program. Every class participated in writing cards, saying poems, singing songs, & decorating the stage. The event was very moving & showed the sincere love & appreciation due our veterans. Veterans were also treated with a special steak lunch served by the lunchroom staff. In attendance were Karen Thomas for Ferrell & Fernelia Thomas, Deborah Smith for Henry Shoemake Jr., Ethel Thomas for Deanne Thomas, Randy Anderson, Elray King, Bobby Williams, Roger Anderson (front & center), Renee Williamson for Michael Reynolds, Billy Smith, Henry Williams, Edwin Thomas, & Hugh King.

Tutorial Program at Conehatta Elementary

The Tutorial Program at Conehatta Elementary School has gotten off to a great start for the 2009-10 school year. The purpose of the program is to enhance & increase student achievement scores in grades 3-8 & to encourage students to work to their fullest potential.

There are two sessions through the year. The first session runs through Dec. 10 & the second session begins Jan. 4 & runs through May 6, 2010.

Tutors are using a variety of tools to meet the various needs of student with different learning styles such as manipulatives, technology, games, & workbooks. Tutors also implement different instructional strategies along with the various teaching tools to help students progress to the level of proficient or advanced on the MCT2.

A pre- & post-test is administered at the beginning & end of each session to measure each student's progress.

Mr. William F. Bell, coordinator of the program, assures that each child receives an award for their achievement while in the program. Everyone receives a certificate for participation. Children with perfect attendance receive a book bag & those students who increase by at least 10 points on the post test receive a pen-pad.

Tutors for the program are Patricia Bennett for Language/Reading & Laverne Hardy for Math.

CONEHATTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CONGRATULATIONS AR WINNERS

Conehatta's Race for Reading Greatness

Conehatta Elementary School developed a school-wide incentive program for all students in the Accelerated Reading Program. It began on day one of school & has now been in progress for three months. A large chart was placed outside the library with each class's name & the amount of points the class has gained that week. At the end of the month the total is averaged by the number of students in the class & the winning high point class wins a great pizza party. In addition, five outstanding readers throughout the school are invited to the party. This wonderful incentive party has been donated by parent Randy Anderson. One student, Stepanie Shoemake, has over 300 points to her credit & has been singled out as a class all by herself. The first class to win the award was the eighth grade. Pictured above are the eighth graders, the top 5 readers of the month, with Randy Anderson. The cafeteria staff also baked a beautiful cake in their honor.

PRES honors Students of the Months

The following Pearl River Elementary School students were selected as Students of the Month for September & were honored with a pizza party.

Honored were Timothy York, Carly Keats, Dejon Dixon, Kalen Willis, Isley Mingo, Sierra Wallace, Shante Beaulieu, Kearson Grisham, Melanian Jimmie, Memorie Henry, Aspen Wesley, Coyo York, Rayven McMillian, Ian York, Tatiana Willis, Xavier Sam, Darien Tubby, Isaiah Mingo, Maleighia Joe, Teegan Clemons, Keyla Mingo, Glendria Dixon, Brannon Farmer, Lalania Walker, Nicholas McMillian, Breanna Isaac, Keyshana Beamon, & Winona Tubby.

The following students were selected as Students of the Month for October & were honored with a breakfast for them, their parents or special guest.

Honored were Angel Willis, PejaYork, Tenly Grisham, D'Vante Isaac, Charlita Gibson, Mahala York, Gerrett Isaac, Angeleighia Hickman, Dalen Anderson, Christi Lewis, Gaston Wesley, Cori Keats, Taelor Sockey, Nigel Jefferson, Victoria Tubby, Alexander Ben, Taylor Griffin, Kacy Bell, Micaiah Tubby, Jaylyn Tubby, Tyson Griffin, Jawaski Johnson, Nequita Farmer, Cathy Thomas, Hallie Denson, Bryce Billy, Jayna Ben, Hannah Daniel, Bryce Martin, Mataya Dixon, & Emaliyah King.

PRES celebrates Read Aloud Month

October was Read-Aloud Month at the Choctaw Tribal elementary schools. Parents, guardians, Tribal officials, & community members were invited to go to their community's elementary school & read a book to the students. It is hoped that seeing these individuals reading books will encourage students to find adventure & fun in a book.

On Friday, Oct. 16, 2009, Fred Willis of the Tribe's Office of Public Information went to Pearl River Elementary School & read to the third grade students.

"I enjoyed reading to the students, & I hope the students enjoyed listening to the story in the book," said Willis.

School officials hope that everyone continues to be involved at their local school throughout the rest of the school year.

Fred Willis of MBCI Public Information reads to third graders at PRES as part of the Read-Aloud Month program.

Classes have a *Purple Cow*

The Pearl River Elementary School second grade classes of Mrs. Debra Nicholson & Mrs. Vicki Tucker memorized & recited the poem *Purple Cow*. Upon completion of the recitations, the classes enjoyed drinking a Purple Cow.

Purple Cow

I never saw a purple cow,
I never hope to see one;
But I can tell you, anyhow,
I'd rather see than be one!
-Gelett Burgess

Directions for Purple Cow, the drink:

-2 scoops of vanilla ice cream, & pour grape juice over ice cream. Enjoy!

PRES Beta Club inducts new members

On Nov. 3, 2009, the Pearl River Elementary School Beta Club inducted ten new members.

New members includeJennard Bollin, Thomas Charlie, Tyson Griffin, Hannah Lewis, Katarina McMillan, Keyla Mingo, Alexis Sam, Emily Scobee, Gatorson Wesley, & Daijah York.

New members were welcomed to the club by existing members: Brooklynn Bell, Julian Billy, Hallie Denson, Justice Fielder, Breanna Isaac, Pegan Jackson, Titus Jim, Tori Johnson, Montel Jordan, Nicholas McMillian, Josiah Monk, Emilee Thames, Cathy Thomas, Hananiah Tubby, Adonis Willis, & Robert York.

RWES celebrates Veterans Day

Red Water Elementary School (RWES) celebrated Veterans Day on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2009, with a special luncheon & program to honor all veterans. After a meal of chicken, hominy & all the fixings, veterans & guests were honored with a program.

Choctaw Princess Famie Willis served as the Mistress of Ceremony. The third grade students did the Pledge of Allegiance in both Choctaw & English. Briana Wesley sang "God Bless America" in Choctaw.

RWES first grade students recited a poem titled, "We Salute You" for the veterans. Pastor Carl Wilson served as guest speaker.

The eighth grade students sang "Star Spangled Banner." Special thanks to former princess Kristen Tubby & Red Water Tribal Council member Phyllis Anderson for their participation in the program & to Rev. Gerald Willis for saying the prayer.

The program ended with the lighting of candles & silent prayer to remember the soldiers in the Fort Hood, Texas tragedy.

Learning about respect at RWES

Brenda Clay, Red Water Elementary School Counselor, talks to students about respect as part of the school's character education program.

RWES Read Aloud Month

Choctaw Indian Princess Famie Willis reads to Red Water Elementary School students as part of October's Read Aloud Month.

RWES celebrates Red Ribbon Week

Red Water Elementary School celebrated Red Ribbon Week October 26-30, 2009. Students socked it to drugs on Tuesday by wearing mismatched or crazy socks. On Wednesday, Choctaw Health Center's Behavioral Health did a presentation & skit on the history of Red Ribbon Week & the dangers of drugs use. Students & staff also participated in a school wide walk against drugs. Red Ribbon week ended on Friday with students & staff teaming up against drugs by wearing team or uniform jerseys.

SPES Drug Awareness Week

Mr. Duran, Life Skills Teacher, and Standing Pine Elementary School students pledge to be drug free as part of Drug Awareness Week at SPES.

10/22/2009
10/22/2009

Standing Pine Elementary students, staff & community members enjoyed the first Health Fair. Some of the activities they enjoyed were the "Hot Potato" game, left, & the exercise routine led by Tommy Sherman, right.

SPES holds 1st Health Fair

Standing Pine Elementary School (SPES) held its 1st Health Fair on Oct. 22 & what a great success it turned out to be! This event included vendors from the Choctaw Health Department, the Bloodmobile bus, blood pressure and blood sugar checks, door prizes, and more.

Students received information on implementing a healthy lifestyle from vendors such as Community Health, Choctaw Safe Kids, Diabetes Management, Dental Department, and Nutrition.

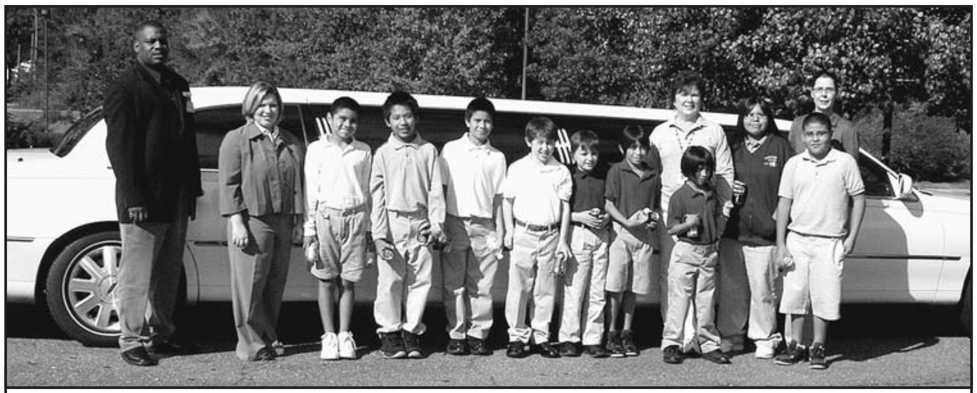
Students enjoyed the exercise routine demonstrated by Tommy Sherman and the "Hot Potato" game instructed by the Nutrition ladies.

SPES and the United Blood Service geared up for a "Be a Hero" Blood Drive. The class who had the most participation from parents and other family members won a pizza party from the United Blood Services. We congratulate the Pre-K class who had the highest participation. We appreciate all the family, staff & community members for "being a hero" by donating blood.

Special thanks to Nurse Tangle for organizing the event. She worked tremendously hard. We would also like to thank everyone who participated to make this a successful Health Fair!

Standing Pine inducts Beta members

Standing Pine Elementary held their Beta Induction Ceremony on Oct. 26. The following students inducted were, front row, Betty Mingo, Candace Jefferson, Kara Edwards, Angelia Morales; back row, Dustin Mingo, Jaydre Bell, & Andreana Morales.



Shaun Seales of the Resort's Transportation Department, Tucker School Principal Brooke Sibley, TAG/CAAP lead instructor Frankie Germany, & TAG/CAAP instructor Donna Anthony pose with the Tucker TAG/CAAP students in front of the Resort limousine.

Tucker students study limousine

On Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2009, students from Tucker Elementary School's Talented and Gifted (TAG) and Creative and Academically Advanced Placement (CAAP) programs were given the opportunity to take a look at the exterior and interior of a limousine.

Shaun Seales, Transportation Manager for Pearl River Resort, brought a Resort limo to Tucker Elementary School. The students wanted to learn more about limousines because they are working on a robotized limousine as their project for the FIRST LEGO League Tournament on Nov. 21 at the Pearl River Elementary School.

After a question-and-answer session with Mr. Seales, the students viewed the interior of the limousine. The students really enjoyed the presentation. Special thanks to Mr. Seales, MBCI Public Information Director Wilma Simpson, and Tucker School officials for arranging the presentation.

On Saturday, Nov. 21, students from all of the Tribal schools competed in the 8th Annual Choctaw Tribal Schools' FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Tournament. The winner will advance to the Mississippi State FLL Championship on Dec. 5.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians stand behind all the students and is proud of them for their enthusiasm and creativity on these projects. We wish you the best!

SPES hosts Pastries with Parents

Standing Pine Elementary School parents, grandparents & students enjoyed "Pastries with Parents" on Nov. 3, 2009. The food was great & so was the fellowship. Special thanks to Diane Johnston for always making this event a success.

Veterans honored at Tucker School on Nov. 10

Brooke Sibley, Principal of Tucker School, proudly led her students as they honored veterans from the Tucker Community and/or veterans related to a Tucker student.

"We were excited that over 70 veterans were invited and glad the students had the opportunity to learn about the importance of service to our country," said Sibley.

Julia Cole, guidance counselor, planned and directed the program as students thanked veterans who gave their sweat, their blood, and sometimes even their lives. Students in each grade created decorations that adorned the walls, bulletin boards, and cafeteria.

"All of the staff helped the children with the decorations and a highlight was the glass case at the school's entrance that Edna Cotton filled with photos of veterans taken many years ago during their active service."

Student Council Officers Shania Farmer, Tisheena Anderson, Autumn McMillan, Melody Charlie, and Candace Mingo led the program. Also assisting with the program was Terrance Comby whose grandfather, Peter Steve, was an invited veteran and guest speaker.

Also speaking to the students were Frank Lee Simpson and Keller George, former USET President and Councilman for the Oneida Indian Nation of New York representing the Wolf Clan.

Jalena Farve, sixth grader, said, "There are nearly 25 million veterans living today and over 400 of those are Mississippi Choctaws who have served or are in active service. Many of us are the sons, daughters, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins of a veteran."

Melody Charlie, sixth grader, said, "We thank these veterans for helping shape American history, and we appreciate the price they paid to defend our nation. Just think, these guys were young and close to my age when they made sacrifices. They left their families, their jobs, put their lives on hold and didn't enjoy a lot of fun stuff!"

Reanna Jefferson, seventh grader, said, "These brave people kept us safe and provided freedom and opportunities I have today."

Leading the presentation of the colors were Jeremiah Henry, Mark Jim, and Klifton Taylor.

Ethan Higginbotham, Cobi John, Mahli Bell, and Candace Mingo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Shania Farmer, eighth grader, asking for our troops victory and safety, offered an opening prayer. She also prayed for the 13 dead and 29 wounded at Fort Hood, Texas, as well as their families.

Reanna Jefferson, Autumn McMillan, Melody Charlie, Rayeshanie Sam, Ari Jefferson, Hillary Joe, Ethan Higginbotham, Marayah Ben, and Jalena Farve sang a stirring version of "Proud to Be an American", directed by Diane Comby.

A special moment for honoring deceased veterans was led by Choctaw Education Services Officer Dalton Henry and assisted by drummer, Jeremiah Henry. Over 30 veteran's names were shared. It was a solemn and reverent part of the morning program.

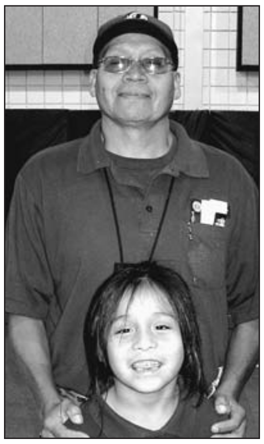
Mr. Henry said, "It is an honor to read the list of names for appreciation and remembrance of the ones that have passed on. War is a time when men and women give the ultimate sacrifice. Veteran's Day is the day we honor our soldiers that have so valiantly served in the military. Some say they are soldiers; some say they are heroes for the ultimate sacrifices."

Veterans stood during the music to their branch of the military - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard. As the program concluded with each veteran stating his name and branch of service, all Tucker School students shook hands and got autographs of the veterans.

Mrs. Sibley invited all guests to enjoy a special Veteran's Day meal prepared by the cafeteria staff.

"We thank all veterans, family members, and the community for their participation in helping to share and teach the importance of this holiday with our students," said Sibley.

Veterans honored at the Tucker School Program were, front row from left, Rhea Ann Thomas, Bernita Reynolds, Frank Lee Simpson, Carl Steve, Ervin Farmer; second row, Sherry White (for her father Mike White), Jerry Reynolds, Peter Steve, Keller George, Fabien Tubby; third row, Jobie Charlie, Raphael McMillan, Larry McMillan, Robert Tubby, Todd Stephens, Brent Comby; last row, Nathan Bell, Billy Thompson, Ryan Chickaway, & Gary Chickaway.



LEFT, *Veteran Carl Steve poses with a Tucker School student.*

BELOW, *Veteran Bernita Reynolds enjoyed lunch with several of the Tucker School students.*

Tucker School hosts Build-a-Book meeting

Tucker Elementary School recently hosted its October Title I Parent Meeting in conjunction with October Read Aloud Month. The program, chaired by Guidance Counselor Julia Cole, was "Families Build-a-Book" with parents investing their total attention with their child(ren) in creating a family keepsake.

This fun evening provided a very open-ended process with children creating books about such topics as favorite places, animals, sports,

..........continued next page

LEFT, *from left, Tyler Willis, Dinah & Naomi Jim.* **RIGHT**, *Reneesha Farve*

LEFT, *front row, Malakai & Leilani Charlie; back row, Marsha & Aaron Charlie.* **CENTER**, *front row, Jenny Mingo & Tiffany Jefferson; back row, Vincent Jefferson.* **RIGHT**, *front, Lexie Farmer; back row, Vickie Steve & Bill Farmer, Jr.*

games, insects, snakes, pets, dreams, family, and Choctaw culture.

Reneesha Farve, third grader, said, "I really liked making my book at the Book Factory because I love reading and art and is a great way for me to keep and share my ideas."

Frances Sodders, fourth grade teacher, said, "This event let different students shine in different ways. Though some children have difficulty with drawing and writing because their fine motor skills aren't yet fully developed, I was amazed what these children could do when working with physical materials like textured paper, fabric, beads, and sticks."

Marsha Charlie, parent of two Tucker students, praised the event. "There is no prouder accomplishment for my children than to read to Aaron and me a book that they have written and illustrated themselves."

Brooke Sibley, Principal, added, "The book making experience brought families, students, and teachers together in a "hands-on, no one can do wrong, I can do anything" environment. And we are so pleased to have so many families participating."

Williamson participates in Haskell service

Tashia Williamson, pictured right, daughter of Gary & Janice Williamson, represented Pocahontas Hall during the 125th Year Commemoration at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. Williamson is a 2007 graduate of Choctaw Central High School & lives in the Conehatta Community. Tashia was second alternate during the commemoration services. Much love from Mom, Dad & the rest of the family. Her escort was Brandon Bell of the Red Water Community. He is the son of Rhonda Bell & grandson of Doris Bell.

Chahta Cares

- Offers services to Tribal members who are caregivers for the elderly, qualified handicapped or disabled.
- Elders must meet the criteria of "frail elder".
- They must be at a point where they cannot live alone and may need assistance from an outside source.
- Services provided include information, assistance, counseling, support and training, respite care and supplemental services on a temporary basis.

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

The Elderly Nutrition Program

601-663-7580 (Angela Farve)

Chahta Cares is funded by Title VI-A Part C of the Older Americans Act.

WINTER QUEEN
Beauty Pageant
COME JOIN ALL THE FUN AT THIS ONE!

Preliminary for the 2010 Little Miss Magnolia State Pageant and Preliminary for the 2010 Teen, Miss and Mrs. Magnolia State Pageant

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2009
PEARL RIVER FACILITY BUILDING
CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI - 2:00 P.M.

NO PAGEANT DRESSES ALLOWED FOR AGES 11 AND YOUNGER!

No Experience Necessary! By winning this local pageant you will earn the opportunity to compete at the state pageant!

For more information, contact local director Vanessa Nickey at 601-575-3686 or e-mail her at *vanessa.nickey@yahoo.com* or Vince Nickey at *vince.nickey@yahoo.com*

Deadline to enter is November 30, 2009

www.missmagnoliastate.com

Red Ribbon Week observed

Members of Choctaw Behavioral Health commemorated Red Ribbon Week Awareness Oct. 23-31 by making presentation at various Choctaw Tribal elementary schools.

Behavioral Health members Marquita Wilson, Cynthia Pryor, Jeremy Chickaway, & Imelia Chickaway made presentations to the students.

Behavioral Health members visited Conehatta Elementary on Oct. 26, Tucker & Pearl River Elementarys on Oct. 27, Standing Pine & Red Water Elementarys on Oct. 28, & Bogue Chitto Elementary on Oct. 29.

Choctaw Behavioral Health members perform skits to Tribal elementary students during Red Ribbon Week, Oct. 23-31.

A Word About Prevention and Red Ribbon Week

Prevention is defined as collaboration between all segments of the community to play & implement multiple strategies that:

- reduce specific risk factors contributing to alcohol, tobacco & other drug use;
- reduce specific risk factors related to behavioral problems; &
- strengthen a set of protective factors to ensure the health & well being of the community. (Protective factors include recognizing an individual's characteristics, giving that individual opportunities, skills & recognition, which promote bonding, attachment, & commitment, resulting in healthy beliefs & healthy behaviors.)

Red Ribbon Week acts as a catalyst to enhance prevention by:

- employing the prevention strategies of information dissemination & education;
- creating awareness about the problems related to substance abuse within the community;
- organizing or strengthening a community coalition to reduce risk factors & strengthen protective factors;
- encouraging the planning of prevention activities & programs in schools & neighborhoods; &
- supporting healthy, drug-free lifestyles.

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INCORPORATED

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS NEWS & NOTES

PEARL RIVER UNIT

Kids in Control

On Oct. 1, Smokey the Bear visited the Boys & Girls Club Pearl River Unit members ages 5-9. He encouraged them to prevent forest fires.

It was Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 4-10. Mr. Allen Meely of the Choctaw Fire Department spoke with our members ages 5-7. He spoke of safety in case of a fire emergency & the importance of having fire detectors in the home will reduce the numbers of death in the community.

Oct. 19-23 was "Healthy

..........continued next page

SMOKEY
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

Smokey the Bear visited the Boys & Girls Club Pearl River Unit & encouraged members to prevent forest fires.

The Choctaw Fire Department visited with members for Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 4-10. They learned of fire safety & the importance of having fire detectors in the home.

Lungs Week." Marquita Wilson from Behavioral Health visited our club. She encouraged members to stay healthy & to say "NO" to tobacco. She also explained the importance of what happens to the lungs & the damages caused when using tobacco products.

Career Launch

On Oct. 14, Melanie Carson & Samuel York from the Tribal Scholarship came to encourage our ages 10-12 members to set goals, continue their education & accomplish them which will lead to a better job in the future.

On Oct. 19, Mitzi Reed from Choctaw Wildlife & Parks also spoke with Career Launch about her job as a biologist.

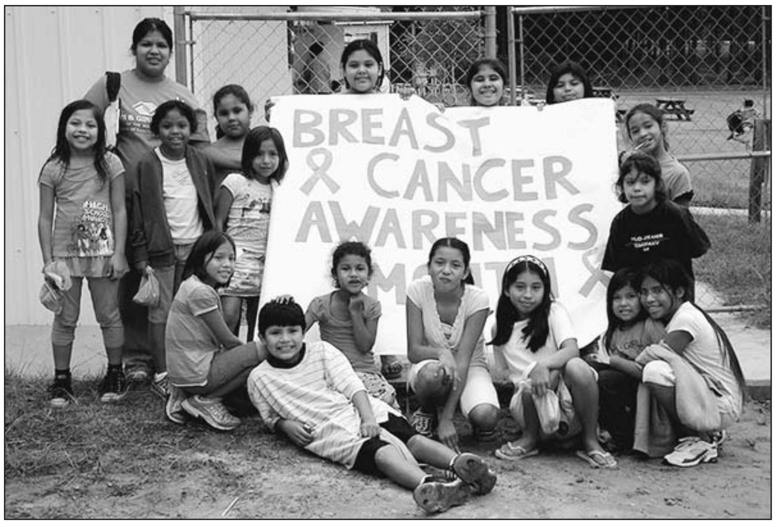
Date Smart

On Oct. 13, Juanina Mingo & Roberto Ben came to encourage members to "Refuse to Abuse." Members were informed that being in a relationship where someone is being hurt is not a healthy relationship. They were also told that verbal abuse is not healthy either.

Act Smart

I, Alan Jimmie, thank Sharon Hockett for speaking with the Act Smart Program at the Pearl River Unit. She is employed with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians at the Choctaw Health Center. Due to knowledge & education, I was honored to have Sharon as our guest. She did a 30 minute session talking about the facts of HIV/AIDS. She gave members a hand out sheet to better understand the facts of this disease.

I'm glad the members enjoyed the session. She also treated them with a light treat. Our ages 8-9 Act Smart group thank Sharon Hockett for donating her time & sharing this information with her knowledge of this program.



Smart Girls - *October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month. To help promote this, the Smart Girls Program declared Oct. 23 as Pink Day. Members who participated had their picture taken & were given a sweet treat. Group leader Alicia thanks all guest speakers who donated their time to speak with her programs.*

Holiday Safety Tips

The holidays are an exciting time of year for kids, & to help ensure they have a safe holiday season, here are some tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

TREES

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant."
- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness.
- When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces, radiators or portable heaters. Place the tree out of the way of traffic & do not block doorways.

LIGHTS

- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, & a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.
- Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use.
- Check all tree lights-even if you've just purchased them-before hanging them on your tree.
- Plug all outdoor electric decorations into circuits with ground fault circuit interrupters to avoid potential shocks.
- Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out & start a fire.

DECORATIONS

- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or nonleaded metals.
- In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable & avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a young child to eat them.
- Follow container directions carefully to avoid lung irritation while decorating with artificial snow sprays.
- Remove all wrapping papers, bags, paper, ribbons & bows from tree & fireplace areas after gifts are opened.

TOY SAFETY

- Select toys to suit the age; toys too advanced may pose safety hazards for younger children.
- Before buying a toy or allowing your child to play with a toy, read the instructions carefully.
- To prevent both burns & electrical shocks, buy toys that is battery-operated.
- Children under age three can choke on small parts contained in toys or games.
- Remove strings & ribbons from toys before giving them to young children.
- Watch for pull toys with strings they could be a strangulation hazard for babies.

Choctaw Children's Advocacy Center
A SAFE PLACE
FOR
CHOCTAW CHILDREN

EMPLOYMENT LISTING

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER, WILDLIFE & PARKS (1 Position)

CLOSING DATE: 11/12/2009 or until filled.

LOCATION: Choctaw Indian Reservation in Pearl River Community, 6 miles west of Philadelphia, MS.

QUALIFICATION: Good communication skills, both oral and written. High School Diploma or GED required. Must be willing to submit to a background check.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: The applicant must be at least 21 years of age at time of appointment, possess and maintains a valid Mississippi Driver's license; meet any and all minimum standards of employment as set forth by the Federal Law Enforcement Academy; have neither a conviction nor plea of guilty or nolo contendere for a felony at any time or a misdemeanor within the past year; have not been discharged under dishonorable conditions from any branch of the U.S. armed services; receive a favorable background investigation report; upon appointment and on a schedule basis, pass a physical examination conducted by a licensed physician and meet minimum physical qualification standards; upon appointment and on a random selection basis, pass an alcohol/drug test conducted by a certified laboratory.

Applicant must be a graduate of, or have the willingness and ability to graduate from, with one year, the Basic Police Officer Training Course at the Indian Police Academy or a similar course substantially meeting or exceeding the level training provided by the Indian Police Academy. Failure to graduate within one year will result in dismissal.

To request & submit application to:
MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 6033, CHOCTAW BRANCH
CHOCTAW, MS 39350

Hawks win basketball tournament

Congratulations to The Hawks for winning the Hoop Burners 11-13 year-old division tournament. Team members include, from left, Desmond Hernandez, Calvin Moncrease, Jr., Cedrony Stephens, Aldreca Hickman, Keaton McMillan, (MVP) Justin McMillan, Hilowah Davis, Keaton Taylor, Ozzie Willis, & Terrance Comby.

Natural Resources and Rural Development

Presents

"10th ANNUAL CREATIVE CHRISTMAS"

December 3 & 4, 2009
December 17, 2009
Place: Pearl River Gymnasium
Time: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (all 3 days)

LUNCH & LEARN

The Tribe's "Lunch & Learn" Program will take place on Tuesday, December 29 shortly after the noon hour in the Entertainment Trailer next to the Pearl River Amphitheater. This program is designed to educate you on your health and financial well being in these hard economic times. You'll learn how to save money and stay healthy. This program is absolutely FREE! So bring your LUNCH & LEARN.

TOPIC: DANGERS OF OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS

For more information, contact Rita Jones at 601-650-7449,
Darlene Willis at 601-656-2211,
Jim McAdory or Candy Jimmie at 601-656-2070.

4-H News

submitted by Ethel Thomas

4-H Day at the State Fair

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' (MBCI) 4-H members who were actively involved in 4-H club monthly business meetings and other 4-H activities took a trip to Jackson, Miss., for "4-H Day" at the Mississippi State Fair on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009.

4-H'ers visited the 4-H Village inside the Trade Mart Building where Dress Revue, Public Speaking, and Modeling Squad showdown events took place and looked around the craft exhibits showcased by the county 4-H clubs.

The 4-H Youth Council had set up booths for experimental learning activities for the kids to make and take home. Afterwards, they went to the carnival for a few hours.

Admission tickets to the fair were provided by the Mississippi State University (MSU) Extension Service Department.

4-H Halloween Carnival

The MBCI 4-H Youth Development Program held its Halloween Carnival at the Choctaw Farmer's Market Building located on Blackjack Road on Saturday, Oct. 24, 2009.

The 4-H activities included a hayride, cakewalk, best pumpkin contest (carved, decorated, or painted), and a costume contest in three categories of Best Store Bought, Originality and Scariest. A spaghetti dinner was served at the end of activity.

"Best Pumpkin" winner was Jayasri Mitch, a member of the Standing Pine 4-H Club.

Costume contest winners were:

5-7 age division - (Store

..........continued next page

ABOVE, *Dana Briscoe, right, a member of the Pearl River 4-H Club, is getting her face painted at the 4-H Village.* **LEFT**, *Rozlind Smith & her sister, Nichasie, are learning to make a spider using pipe cleaners at the 4-H Village.*

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4-H'ERS ATTEND WILDLIFE EXTRAVAGANZA

Tribal 4-H'ers attended the Choctaw Tribe's first ever "Wildlife Extravaganza" at the Department of Natural Resources & Rural Development in Choctaw. They also got hands-on experience on laser tag, b.b. rabbit stick throw & tasting a buffet of wildlife dishes. They also had a chance to meet Mr. Tom Wiley, the inventor of the Flextone game call.

LEFT, *"Best Pumpkin" winner was Jayasri Mitch.* **RIGHT**, *Costume contest winners were Sharecka Jefferson, Tomechi Bell, Autumn Lewis, William Williams, & Billy Johnson Jr.*

Bought), Sharecka Jefferson dressed as the Clown. Sharecka is a member of Standing Pine 4-H Club;

8-10 age division - (Originality), Tomechi Bell as the Vampiretta. Tomechi is a member of Bogue Homa 4-H Club.

8-10 age division - (Store Bought), Autumn Lewis as Cleopatra. Autumn is a member of Pearl River 4-H Club;

8-10 age division - (Scariest), William Williams dressed as Freddie Kruger. William is a member of Bogue Chitto 4-H Club;

11-13 age division - (Store Bought), Billy Johnson Jr. as Scream. Billy Jr. is a member of Pearl River 4-H Club.

Congratulations to all the winners! Winners received certificates and 4-H backpacks.

Emcee for the costume contest was Jim McAdory, MSU Extension Native American Agriculture Agent.

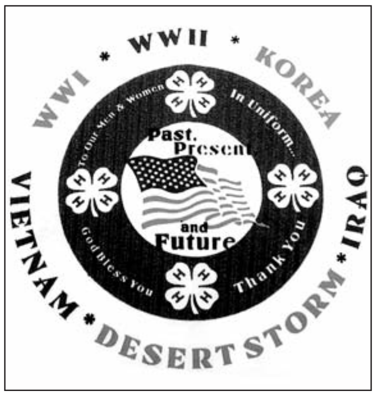
Judges for the costume contest and best pumpkin contest were Candy Jimmie, Administrative Assistant, and Brantley Willis, Agriculture Extension Coordinator.

Thank you to the judges, emcee, cooks, tractor drivers for the hayride and also to the parents and volunteers for donating cakes for the cakewalk.

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
"To Make the Best Better"

ABOVE, *The 4-H Youth Development Program participated in the Veteran's Day Parade on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009, to show their support to all past, present & future veterans.*

RIGHT, *The design on the T-shirt was designed by Samantha Wilson, Red Water 4-H Club member.*



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Tribe honored for part in Operation Dakota Peacekeeper

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' (MBCI) Detention Program was recently honored with a Unit Citation by the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) Office of Justice Services, Division of Corrections by assisting in maintaining viable operations at the Standing Rock Detention Center on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in Ft. Yates, ND.

The primary mission was to support "Operation Dakota Peacekeeper", which was a nationally supported effort by the Office of Justice Services to reduce crime and lawlessness on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. The MBCI Detention Program accepted and assisted in completing this mission.

This occurred during a time of greatly increased occurrences of arrest, housing and transportation of offenders at the Standing Rock Agency. Even after Operation Dakota Peacekeeper ended on Jan. 31, 2009, they continued to provide detailed correctional staff to ensure a continuity of safe and secure operations at the Standing Rock Detention Center.

Without the willing commitment and dedication through manpower assistance, as well as from the MBCI Tribal Government, the efforts to maintain detention operation at the Standing Rock Detention Center would not have been capable of supporting an operation of this magnitude.

During this extended deployment by the detention staff from the MBCI, the area they were detailed to suffered periods of severe winter weather, a magnitude that had not been seen since 1997 with record cold and snow totals over 100 inches, only two inches short of the state record.

The detailed staff from Choctaw endured, did not complain and showed the true meaning of the words, "adapt, improvise, and overcome", while not being accustomed to these type of weather conditions.

The Office of Justice Service also recognized the management and leaders of the MBCI corrections division. Their responsiveness when details were requested was almost immediate and the officers dispatched in support of Operation Dakota Peacekeeper were certified, competent, and motivated volunteers.

The BIA Office of Justice Services offers their heartfelt thanks and admiration to the dedicated professionals from the MBCI corrections division and are very deserving of this award.

The Choctaw Detention Center/Choctaw Youth Justice Center were recognized from the BIA for providing assistance during Operation Dakota Peacekeeper at the 2009 Indian Country Detention Summit on Sept. 1-3 in Albuquerque, NM. Accepting the award were, from left, Jeremiah Harrison, Juvenile Administrator-Choctaw Youth Justice Center; Amanda Frazier, Adult Administrator-Choctaw Detention; & Ken Butler, Director of Public Safety.

MBCI Detention receives honor

A 2009 Unit Citation was awarded to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Detention Division at the 17th Annual National Native American Law Enforcement Association Conference in Tulsa, Okla., on Sept. 10. Honored were Tia Truss, Lead Officer; Lahoma Conrad, Shift Supervisor; Cinica Sam, Detention Officer; Chyanne Napp, Youth Worker; Debbie McMillan, Detention Officer; Ken Butler, Director of Public Safety; Amanda Frazier, Adult Administrator-Choctaw Detention; & Jeremiah Harrison, Juvenile Administrator-Choctaw Youth Justice Center. Special thanks to the MBCI Tribal Government. The Choctaw Detention Center commend the rest of the Detention staff who remained at Choctaw to keep the operation going.

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In Memory

SARAH BELL LITTLEVOICE

Funeral services for Sarah Bell Littlevoice, 62, were held Thursday, October 15, 2009, from the Nanih Waiya Mennonite Church. The Rev. Ethan Goode and The Rev. Harvey Yoder officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery in Preston. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Littlevoice passed away Oct. 10 in Kansas.

She enjoyed gardening and fishing.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Sam Bell & Melissa Bell; sisters, Recci Bell & Nelly Bell; & a brother, Carlos Bell.

She is survived by her husband, Albert Littlevoice, Sr.; daughters, Juanita Littlevoice, Laura Hopper, Wionna Littlevoice, & Melissa Dunn; sons, Albert Littlevoice & Edwin Bell; sisters, Sybil Tubby, Betty Bell, Cindy Bell, Kathy Sam, & Marie Tubby; eight grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

BENEDICTA BELVA (ST. JOHN) STEVE

Funeral services for Benedicta Belva (St. John) Steve, 71, were held Thursday, October 29, 2009, from the St. Therese Catholic Church in Choctaw. Father Bob Goodyear officiated.

Burial was in Phillips Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Steve passed away Oct. 25 at Regency Hospital in Meridian.

She resided in the Pearl River Community & was a member of St. Catherine's Catholic Church.

She attended Hidden Valley Day School at West Bend, South Dakota on the Crow Creek Sioux Reservation. She graduated from Stephan High School in 1958.

Mrs. Steve graduated from Chilocco Community College in Northern Oklahoma in 1960. She attended the University of South Dakota for a semester then moved with her family to Conehatta, Miss. She earned her bachelor's degree in education at Mississippi State University (MSU)-Meridian. She was a teacher for many years at the Conehatta Elementary School. She retired in 1985. While teaching, she earned her Master's Degree. She came out of retirement & became a Curriculum Specialist at Conehatta Elementary. She retired fully in July 2005.

She received many distinguished awards in education over the years. She had the respect & admiration of many friends & colleagues in education.

Steve was very proud of her Native American heritage. She was an enrolled member of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe. The traditional name given to her was Hu Kwasahe Winya (Broken Leg Woman). She loved to travel to pow-wows & traditional gatherings.

She was preceded in death by a son, Sean C. Steve; husband, Frank Steve, Sr.; parents, Solomon & Ruth St. John; a sister, Yvonne St. John; & a brother, Justin St. John.

Survivors include her daughter, Stephanie C. Steve of Choctaw; two sons, Frank M. "Butch" Steve Jr. of Choctaw & Anthony F. "Tony" Steve Sr. of Carthage; brothers, Odell C. St John Sr. of Mobridge, South Dakota, Pete St. John & Guy St. John, both of Big Bend, South Dakota; 8 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; & numerous nieces, nephews, relatives & friends.

ADAIR KING

Funeral services for Adair King, 62, were held Saturday, October 31, 2009, from the Macedonia Baptist Church in Conehatta.

Burial was in the Choctaw Mission Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. King passed away Oct. 28 at Specialty Hospital in Meridian.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Barcom King & Nancy Denson King; & his brothers, Ricky Dewayne King, Addie Lee King & Kenneth Kinnard King.

He was a U.S. Army veteran & a Baptist.

He is survived by his daughter, Lucretia Wilson; sons, Ramsey King & Elray King; sisters, Nelda King & Angeline Hickman; brothers, Hugh King, Ferry King & Michael Vernon King; 17 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

TAMMY DENISE GRANT

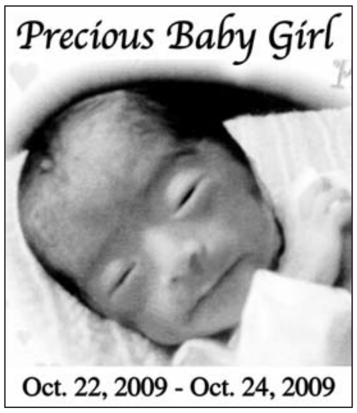
Funeral services for Tammy Denise Grant, 45, were held Wednesday, November 4, 2009,

.....see OBITUARIES, pg. 30

In Loving Memory
Taloa-Seeth
Shaylynn Mingo

GONE TOO SOON

Precious Baby Girl



Oct. 22, 2009 - Oct. 24, 2009

In my dreams I see you running happy & carefree, the sunlight in your hair, your cheeks bright & pink with the exuberance of a child discovering her world.

In my dreams I hold you, rocking softly in the dim starlight, carefully cradling your little body as it gives in to weariness at the end of your day.

In my dreams I hear you, a soft tickle to my ear as we share our secrets & plan our fun.

In my dream I hear your laughter, a hesitant giggle that swells to a small child's belly laugh as you come to see humor & delight in ordinary things.

In my dreams I feel your touch, a soft little hand on my face. The warmth of your body as it melts into mine seeking comfort for hurts & fears.

A fairy sprite, a wisp of heaven, a radiant star, a precious soul... You shine your light in my darkness & I feel you here.

I cannot give you what I long to - a kiss, a caress, the guidance of a loving parent. Another plan has turned mine into dreams where I see you, I feel you.

You have gone on ahead - too perfect for this world. You stayed only a moment in my heart, but I will never be the same.

-W.W. Roberts

• PRECIOUS ANGEL •

S*pecial lil' angel came into our lives.*
A *weeping little sound from a lil' angel had our hearts*
covered in clouds.
U*ncalled for us to see our lil' angel gone,*
N*ever wanted to believe the tragedy of our loss.*

W*atching our lil' angel laying there, as he was sleeping*
E*ven though,*

M*any times we pray & ask the Lord to return our baby.*
I*nstead, we walk around with broken hearts.*
S*pecial baby came into our lives,*
S*hiny lil' eyes like diamonds in his eyes.*

Y*ou will always be in our hearts forever.*
O*ne day we will soon see you again.*
U*ntil then, we miss you dearly.*

"To Lillie Steve, thank you for bringing Lil' Angel into our lives..." - Love ya, A.J.

OBITUARIES

continued from page twenty-nine

from the Macedonia Baptist Church in Conehatta. The Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.

Burial was in the Conehatta Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Grant passed away Oct. 30 at the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She loved to do bead work, work on the computer and crochet. She was a Baptist.

She was preceded in death by her father, Robert James Grant; stepfather, Faron Denson; grandparents, Mary Lou Farmer, Alma Lucille Grant & Eddie Grant.

She was survived by her mother, Donna Denson; stepsisters, Sharon Denson & Kelly Denson; brothers, James Kevin Grant, Kenneth Benjamin Grant & Shaun Dale Grant; & a host of aunts, nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

JERRY THOMPSON

Funeral services for Jerry Thompson, 42, were held Monday, November 9, 2009, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. The Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Thompson passed away on Nov. 6 at the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

A graduate of French Camp Academy in 1986, Thompson enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1989 and served in Operation Desert Storm. Upon his discharge from the Navy, he served as a cook at the Pearl River Resort & Bogue Chitto Elementary School.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Junice Mae Bell; maternal grandparents, Sally & Fomie Thompson; paternal grandmother, Lily Jones; two aunts, Nancy Mingo & Maggie Chitto; & an uncle, Arnold Jones.

He is survived by three daughters, Angel Thompson, Towilena Thompson & Tiwanna Thompson, all of Philadelphia; his father, Glenn Bell of Philadelphia; three sisters, Anna Bell, Rosie Bell & Renee Bell, all of Philadelphia; four brothers, James Bell, Larry T. Bell, both of Philadelphia, Cecil Thompson of Heidelberg, & Keith Coley of Ardmore, Okla.; two uncles, Charlie Thompson & Anthony Jim of Philadelphia; & a host of relatives & friends.

DARWIN GRANT JIM

Funeral services for Darwin Grant Jim, 30, were held Friday, November 13, 2009, from the Pearl River Facility Building. The Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

Burial was in the Pearl River Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Jim passed away Nov. 9 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

He enjoyed playing stickball and was a member of Beaver Dam's championship stickball team. He was also a basketball & flag football coach. He loved to watch college football on TV as he enjoyed watching the Florida State University Seminoles and Louisiana State University Tigers play. He also enjoyed talking on the phone with his friends.

He, along with his brothers, were members of his late father's drum group, War Eagles.

He was preceded in death by his father, Dennis Jim Sr.; both his maternal and paternal grandparents; two brothers; a sister; and two nephews.

Survivors include his mother, Sally W. Jim; sisters, Damita Jim, Angie Jim, Anita McCombs, all of Philadelphia; brothers, Justin Jim, Ryan Jim, Dennis Jim Jr., Jamie Jim, all of Philadelphia, and Mark Jim of Jackson, Miss.; two uncles; four aunts; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

Brothers have successful year in Martial Arts

Rayden Sockey, left, & Zander Sockey had an outstanding year in Martial Arts tournaments held in MS, LA, AL, NC, FL, & TN. Both competitors participated in advance divisions in their respective age group. Both are students at GracieSouth Brazilian Jiu Jitsu & Kickboxing Academy in Flowood, Miss., & the Tang Soo Do Karate Academy in Carthage, Miss.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

They're turning 2! Ajavon Blaise Samuel & Ajonay Blize Samuel will be turning 2 on Dec. 28. We love you babies, from Mom, Dad, big brother, big sisters, & the rest of the family. Happy Birthday! We love you very much.

Happy Birthday to Aniyah Manae Smith who turns 4 on Dec. 31. Love you big girl & wish you the best! Love from mom, brother, sisters, & the rest of the family.

Happy 10th Birthday to Brian LaBatte Jr. on Dec. 19, from "everyone who loves you!"

Happy 42nd Birthday to Carlton Isaac Jr. on Nov. 10 & Happy ?? Birthday to Robert Lee Farmer on Nov. 11. Love from Cynthia, Nehemiah, Jordon, Missy, Gary II, Shamilia, Meritza, Memorie, & Jairdan. Have a Blessed Day!

Happy Birthdays to my nephews, Jerale Keith Willis on Dec. 6, Javonte Shane Willis on Dec. 30... to Sheena Kay Clemons on Dec. 10 & to Shannen Chapala on Dec. 12. Happy Belated Birthday to my sister Lakayden Rayne Clemons on Nov. 10, to "Little" on Nov. 10 & also Happy Belated Birthday to my dad "Bill" on Oct. 22. Happy Birthday to my niece Taylor Shanell Willis on Jan. 5, my brother Jerithan Keith Willis on Jan. 28, & Jayceous Hunter-Wade on Jan. 8. Happy Birthdays fellas. Much love from Marena Clemons. Also, Happy Belated Birthday to Erica King on Oct. 31.

Happy Belated Birthday to Jermaine Tyrell Mingo on Oct. 29 & Happy Birthday to Breanne Mingo on Nov. 21. Much love from Mom, Dad &

..........continued next page

HAPPY BIRTHDAY "SEBASH"

Sunrise: December 11, 1985

Sunset: June 22, 2009

You have gone but not forgotten. You are still in our hearts. This birthday wish goes to you on your special day. We miss you & love you always. In loving memory of Gilberth Sasbastian Shea Bell, a.k.a. "Sebash", on Dec. 11, 2009. From your loving daughter, Jabezlin, & all your family & friends.

the rest of the family.

Happy Belated Birthday to Damian Sockey on Oct. 11, from your mom Twana... Happy Belated Birthday wishes to Clifton Ray Jefferson on Oct. 12, from family & friends.

Happy 2nd Birthday to my loving niece, Daisy'Alynn Myseantean Perkins.

Happy Birthday & Merry Christmas to Lynnita Ann King (Nani).

Happy Birthday to Courtney LaShay on Nov. 6, Titter on Nov. 8 & Nani on Dec. 30.

Happy Birthday to our aunt "Pacheif" Patricia Faye Mitch on Dec. 5, with lots of love from "Da Henry Girls."... Happy Birthday to our uncle Joel Shoemake on Dec. 12. From Dayton & the Henry Girls.

Happy 5th Birthday to Erin Brynn Henry "Ochie" on Dec. 15, with love from Mom, Dad, Papo & Mamo Henry & the rest of your family in Bok Cito.

Happy Birthday to our beautiful sister-in-law, Mrs. Loula Jim, on Dec. 24. May the Good Lord be with you always. We love you and pray for you, from the Jim Family... To our dear aunt, Mrs. Susie Willis, have a great happy birthday on Dec. 26. Continue to hold onto God's unchanging hands. We all love you, from your nieces & nephews (Thel, Ann, Peggy, Jimmy, Barry Sr., Davis, & Jaye)... To Ms. Jerelyn Kerah Jim, may Dec. 7 bring you lots and lots of joy, laughter & love from the family as you celebrate your special day. Happy 22nd, Kerah. God bless you! We all love you, from the Jim Family.

Happy Belated Birthday to DeAngelo Lovato on Nov. 23. From Mom, Dad, Braden, & family... Happy Belated Birthday to Nika & Tika from DeAngelo, Deesha, Mary, & Tayshia... Happy Birthday to my husband Braden on Dec. 13. We love you from Deesha & son Dejo.

Happy ?? Birthday to Dianne, from Rose, Leon, Dustin & your baby girl Reana.

To my baby brother, Mr. Justin Bryce Laben Cotton. Boy, you are 14 now! Everytime I'm away from you, it feels like I've been gone for years. I remember your first steps that was awhile back. Now it feels like you're taking your first steps into life. Aww, just know you will always be my baby brother. I love you! Happy Birthday on Dec. 23, from Mina & E... Also, Merry Christmas to all my family.

Happy 1st Birthday wishes to my son, Carmen Dontay, on Dec. 10. Love you always, from daddy Kevin "Beast" Bell.

Happy Belated Birthday to "Phat-Phat" on Nov. 21. Love Auntie Lil & Uncle Jay... Happy Birthday to my brother in Tucker, Mr. Roy W. Steve, & Mr. Joe Shoemake, from Lillie.

Happy Belated Birthday to my son "Phat Phat" Arman Jefferson. Love from Mommy & Mel, Bihead, Dontay, & Keaton Dupree... Happy Birthday to Carmon Dontay on Dec. 10. Love from Mommy & the rest of family... Congrats to my homeboy Jay Weezie & my baby sis Lillie on their upcoming marriage on Dec. 12. Ya'll don't stop the love you two have for each other. Also, remember Baby Saun is watching so make each other happy like he'd wanted. Love, Vur.

Happy Belated Birthday to Billy Thompson on Oct. 31, from the people at Industrial Training. You haven't taken your mask off? Ha! Ha!

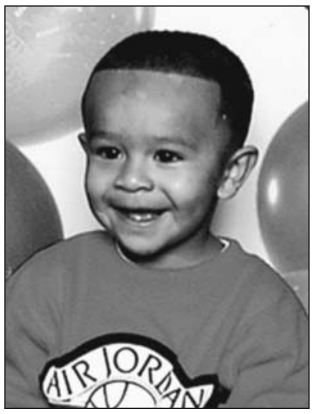
Happy Birthday to Timmie Willis, a.k.a. "Pink Chabaka", on Nov. 26, from your one & only sweetheart.

Happy 13th Birthday to Trinesa Elaine Isom on Dec. 4, Happy 19th Birthday to Rockky Ice Isom on Dec. 14 & Happy 25th Birthday to Bonnie Elaine Ben on Dec. 12, from Amber & Germaine.

Happy Belated Birthday to Kodi Marie & Trinity Denise on Nov. 29 & Justin William on Nov. 27, from family & friends.

Happy Belated Birthdays to Kayla Denae Joe on Sept. 18 as she turned 13, Tiara Shanteal Elise Joe on Oct. 17 as she turned 12, & Adam Joe Sr. on Nov. 16... Happy 8th Birthday to Adam Joe Jr. on Dec. 2 & Happy 4th Birthday to Aven Joe on Dec. 23, from Patricia. I love ya'll always!... To my Papo, Arthur Lee Farmer. Happy Belated Birthday on Nov. 9 & many more to come, from Patricia.

Happy Birthday to Cedric T. Chickaway on Dec. 10, from Cedrian & La'Kenton Chickaway & the rest of the family.



Happy Belated Birthday Tae'Shaun Da'Prince Shumake, from Mommy, Daddy & Na-Na.

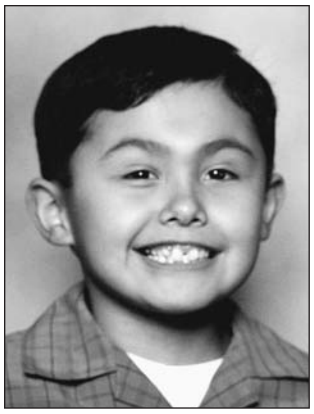
Happy Belated 16th Birthday to Shenowa Polk on Nov. 2, from Nellie, Rose, Fred, & the Pack.

Happy Belated 26th Birthday on Oct. 11 to Muffin! I mean 'Cowgirl', from guess who.

Happy 18th Birthday to Shuntalidia Lenae Lewis on Dec. 29, from your Mom, Mamo, Shunita, Brittany, Shanika, Jr, Bryce, Jayce, & all your family from S.P. We love you!

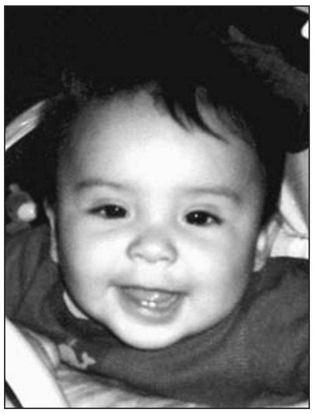
Look who is a year older - Justin Bryce Laben Cotton

Every year on your birthday I think about how glad I am that you were born & how thankful I am to have you in my life. Every year is another year filled with the special joys you bring just by being yourself. Every year I realize what a blessing you are to everyone who knows you, especially me. HAPPY 14TH BIRTHDAY on Dec. 23. From Mom, Henry & Mina... MERRY CHRISTMAS to all my family.



Jackson Bryce Martin is 11 years old. Happy Birthday to "Honey Boy", from Momma, Daddy & Blake.

We would like to wish Connor Willis a Happy 2nd Birthday on Dec. 6, from your family. We love you Nita Osi!

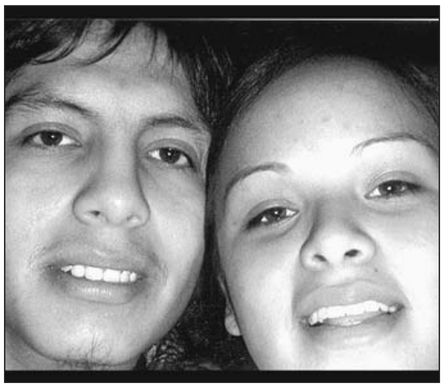


We wish a HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Mr. Kaden Hoshi Lakna James Hall on Dec. 2. He will be a year old. From Miss to Fla, we are sending all of our hugs & kisses to you on your special day. Have a great birthday. We love & miss you, from Papo, Steph, Mina, & Justin.

I can't believe that you are turning 1. It seems just yesterday I was bringing you home from the hospital. Happy Birthday to my son, Ashton Gade Hoshonti Hopakachi Sockey, who will turn 1 on Dec 17. Happy Birthday Furby, from Mom, Dean, Neyah, Grandpa & Grandma.

Happy Belated 1st Birthday to my little angel, Payden Rose Shanae Martin, on Oct. 26, from your Dad, Grandpa, Grandma, Reana, Leon, & Dustin. Daddy will always love you & miss you very much.

RIGHT, Happy 18th Birthday to Germaine "Maine" Isom on Dec. 6, from Amber.



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A SPECIAL DEDICATION LETTER TO MY BELOVED FAMILIES

May the family be blessed & full of God's love throughout this holiday season. With each day that passes, I am that much close to coming home. You, the family, have given me so much faith, hope, love, & support that I thank God everyday for you. I know that I don't say it enough, but I want you to know that I appreciate it all. Thank you. Know that you are all here in my heart, thoughts & prayers.

To my brothers & sisters, thank you for catching me when I fall, for catching my tears when I cry & for being strong to carry me through. To my Aunt Susie, wish I was there to hug you & to show you how much you mean to me. To my nieces & nephews, I'm always thinking of you. To my cousins, the joy & happiness you bring into my life goes a long way. Thank you all for everything, no matter how small or big, it all holds the same value because it was out of love.

I love you & miss you all. God Bless you! I'll be home real soon.

-Mr. Jared Jaye Jim

Happy 3rd Anniversary to Geronimo & Susanna Shoemake on Nov. 6, 2009, from Shorty, S-Boy, Bonez, the family, & Mr. Nay-Nay!

Celebrates 50th Wedding Anniversary

Henry & Nancy Ben recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Henry is formerly from the Standing Pine Community and Nancy (Gordon) is formerly from Little Rock, Miss. Henry began a teaching career at Pearl River Indian School (now Choctaw Central High School). They met while Nancy was working for the Choctaw Indian Agency in Philadelphia. They eventually relocated to Tahlequah, Okla., where Henry resumed his teaching career at Sequoyah Indian High School and Nancy worked as an administrative assistant at a local bank. They have 4 children, 8 grandchildren and one great grandchild. When asked what the secret to a long, happy marriage is, Henry answered in one word - "biscuits".

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO...

...my mom, D'Lynn, Boi, Tehya, Sahneya, Ray, Wayne, Kelli, Kendrick, & Aliyah. Merry Christmas to my loving nieces & nephews. Yall have a safe one. Merry Christmas to Laykenya "Kemo" Willis. We still love you. Merry Christmas to Mary Elizabeth Willis, Serge & Pat. Love always, Nani.

Merry Christmas to my precious lil boys, JaWarrick Hickman, JaMarcus Wesley & JaRyan Wesley... Merry Christmas to Kendrick Keith Wesley. Love always, Denicia.

Merry Christmas to Denicia Gwynne, Lynnita Ann, Jessica Mary, Laykenya Liz, Serge, Mary Elizabeth, & especially you Patrick Levon. From Chuckie.

Merry Christmas to the Steve Family. Love, Vur... Merry Christmas to my children, Melody, Antone, Arman, Jr., Carmon, & Keeton. I love y'all always no matter what. Love, Mommy.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! to you (Kaden), Nina, Sly, Brannon, & Dejon.